

RUSSIAN FIGHTER JET PASSES NEAR US NAVY WARSHIP

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AUTHORITIES SAY HATE MOTIVATED KANSAS KILLINGS

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On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Tuesday, April 15, 2014



Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew, left, and Ukrainian Finance Minister Oleksandr Shlapak shake hands at a signing ceremony at the Treasury Department in Washington, Monday, April 14, 2014. Congress passed legislation to provide \$1 billion in loan guarantees to Ukraine in the aftermath of Russia's takeover of Crimea.

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin spoke Monday for the first time in more than two weeks, but appeared to make little progress in stemming the growing crisis in

eastern Ukraine, where pro-Russian forces are deepening their insurgency.

A senior U.S. official said Obama told Putin that while a diplomatic solution to the crisis remains his preferred outcome, Russia's actions are not conducive to that approach. The Kremlin said Putin used the call to reject Western claims that Russian agents have stoked protests in eastern Ukraine and also urged Obama to discourage the Ukrainian gov-

ernment from using force against those protesters. The call was initiated at Russia's request, according to the U.S. official, who insisted on anonymity in order to describe the call before details are formally re-

leased by the White House. The conversation occurred days before U.S., Russian,

Ukrainian and European officials are due to hold talks on the unrest in Geneva.

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Russian jet passes near US warship

LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Russian fighter jet made multiple, close-range passes near an American warship in the Black Sea for more than 90 minutes Saturday amid escalating tensions in the region, U.S. military officials said Monday. In the first public account of the incident, the officials said the Russian Fencer made 12 passes, and flew within 1,000 yards (900 meters) of the USS Donald Cook, a Navy destroyer, at about 500 feet (150 meters) above sea level.

The U.S. warship issued several radio queries and warnings using international emergency circuits, but

the Russian aircraft did not respond.

"This provocative and unprofessional Russian action is inconsistent with international protocols and previous agreements on the professional interaction between our militaries," said Army Col. Steve Warren, a Pentagon spokesman.

The fighter appeared to be unarmed and never was in danger of coming in contact with the ship, said the officials. The passes, which occurred in the early evening there, ended without incident. A second Russian fighter jet flew at a higher altitude and was not a concern, said Warren.

A U.S. military official also said that a Russian Navy

ship, a frigate, has been shadowing the U.S. warship, remaining within visual distance but not close enough to be unsafe. The official was not authorized to discuss the incident publicly so spoke on condition of anonymity. Warren said that he is not aware of any official communication or protests by the U.S. to the Russians about incident.

The USS Donald Cook has been conducting routine operations in international waters east of Romania. The ship, which carries helicopters, was deployed to the Black Sea on April 10, in the wake of the Russian military takeover of Ukraine's Crimea region and ongoing unrest there.



The USS Donald Cook is docked in the Black Sea port of Constanta, Romania, Monday, April 14, 2014. A U.S. military official says a Russian fighter jet made multiple, close-range passes near an American warship in the Black Sea for more than 90 minutes Saturday amid escalating tensions in the region. The official says the fighter flew within 1,000 yards of the USS Donald Cook, a Navy destroyer, at about 500 feet above sea level, saying this prompted ship commanders to issue several radio warnings.

(AP Photo/Vadim Ghirda)

Venezuela:

Journalist freed 8 days after kidnap

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— A Venezuelan journalist was freed Monday, eight days after she was kidnapped by masked men in front of her house.

Interior Minister Miguel Rodriguez Torres told a news conference that 3,000 people had been hunting for Nairobi Pinto, chief correspondent for the Globovision television station, and "the police pressure played an important role" in prompting the captors to free her. He said nobody had been arrested

and did not say if a ransom was paid. Rodriguez Torres said officials have not wanted to speculate about a motive for the kidnapping, though he noted that Pinto is a university law student and member of a Christian group as well as being a journalist. While kidnapping for ransom is a widespread problem in Venezuela, Pinto's family said earlier they had received no messages from the abductors.

Pinto herself appeared briefly alongside the min-

ister and said she could not identify her captors because her eyes were always covered.

"They treated me well. They never touched me, never mistreated me. I ate all three meals," she said. She said she could not give more details for reasons of security.

Three armed men in masks seized Pinto in front of her house in Caracas on April 6 and she was freed at a hospital in the town of Cua, about 60 miles (100 kilometers) south of the capital.

LATIN & CARIBBEAN BRIEFS

Two Dutch female tourists still missing

PANAMA CITY, Panama (AP) — Authorities in Panama say they haven't found any clues about two female tourists from the Netherlands who went missing near a popular tourist destination two weeks ago. Twenty-two-year-old Lisanne Froon and 21-year-old Kris Kremers were last seen March 31 before starting on a hike near Boquete. The highlands 260 miles west of Panama's capital is popular with tourists and retirees. The two women were reported missing April 2 by a tourist guide who went to look for them at the house where they were staying.

Two migrant smugglers charged in USVI

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Two Haitian nationals have been arrested in the U.S. Virgin Islands after being indicted on charges of conspiracy to smuggle migrants into the U.S. The U.S. Justice Department alleged Monday that the two suspects conspired with others to smuggle mostly Haitian migrants to the U.S. island of St. John in 2010. The attempt ended tragically when a boat carrying 33 migrants smashed into a reef while trying to evade authorities. At least four children and four adults died. Most of the passengers on the vessel were Haitians seeking a better life. □

Bolivia villagers use fire ants on thieves

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — Bolivian authorities say Amazon villagers nearly killed two young men with venomous ants, tying them to a tree swarming with the insects for allegedly stealing three motorcycles. Dr. Roberto Paz told reporters Monday in Cochabamba that one of the men remained in intensive care while the other had required dialysis for kidney failure. The venomous ants, of the pseudomyrmex triplarinus species, live in symbiosis with the triplaris tree variety. Their venom has anti-inflammatory properties and is used a traditional cure for arthritis.

Dominican agents break up ecstasy lab

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — Antidrug agents in the Dominican Republic say they have dismantled a synthetic drug laboratory and arrested five people. Abel Rojas is a spokesman for the Caribbean country's National Drug Control Directorate. He says the clandestine drug lab in the northern town of Villa Gonzalez made ecstasy, or MDMA. Rojas says investigators believe the pills were smuggled to the U.S. and Europe. Authorities say the purported ecstasy ring was led by a 54-year-old Dominican who had been deported from the U.S.

Policeman, wife dead in murder-suicide

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Investigators say a Jamaican police officer appears to have shot and killed his wife before turning the gun on himself. The Jamaica Constabulary Force says the 31-year-old Spanish Town policeman apparently fatally shot Latoya Campbell-Thompson at their home this weekend. Early Sunday, detectives found the corpse of Constable Davian Thompson in a nearby drainage gully with a gunshot wound to his head. He was clutching a revolver. Thompson was on temporary suspension from the police force for his involvement in a shooting incident last year.



Little sign of progress as Obama, Putin speak

Continued from front

U.S. officials say there is compelling evidence that Russia is fomenting the unrest in eastern Ukraine, but have suggested Obama has not yet concluded that Putin's actions warrant broader sanctions on key Russian economic sectors. "We are actively evaluating what is happening in eastern Ukraine, what actions Russia has taken, what transgressions they've engaged in," White House spokesman Jay Carney said. "And we are working with our partners and assessing for ourselves what response we may choose." Administration officials confirmed Monday that CIA chief John Brennan visited the Ukrainian capital of Kiev over the weekend, breaking with the administration's typical practice of not disclosing the director's travel. Ousted Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych accused Brennan of being behind Ukraine's decision to send troops into the east to try to quash an increasingly brazen pro-Russian insurgency.

While U.S. officials denied those accusations, confirmation of Brennan's visit could provide fodder for

Russian officials to create a pretext for further incursions into eastern Ukraine. Obama and Putin last spoke on March 28. Since then, pro-Russian forces have undertaken a rampage of storming and occupying local government offices, police stations and a small airport in eastern

The Ukrainian government has proved powerless to rein in the separatists, who are demanding more autonomy from the central government in Kiev and closer ties to Russia.

The White House has blamed the unrest on Russia, saying there are undeniable similarities between the situation in eastern Ukraine and the Kremlin's maneuvers in Crimea, the Black Sea peninsula Russia annexed from Ukraine last month.

"The evidence is compelling that Russia is supporting these efforts and involved in these efforts," Carney said. "You saw this coordinated effort in a number of cities across eastern Ukraine all at once that sure didn't look organic to observers from the outside."

Despite those assertions, it was unclear whether the

U.S. planned to respond with deeper economic penalties. Obama has repeatedly warned that Russian advances into eastern Ukraine would mark a seri-



White House press secretary Jay Carney is reflected in a counter as he speaks during the daily news briefing at the White House in Washington, Monday, April 14, 2014. Carney discussed the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) report, the Ukraine and other topics.

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

ous escalation of the crisis that would warrant a stronger international response, including the prospect of sanctions on Russia's energy sector and other key industries.

But the administration has avoided saying whether Russia's actions in the east thus far have crossed that line. U.S. officials are also still trying to rally support for sector sanctions from Europe, which has a far deeper economic relationship with Russia and would therefore be more likely to be negatively affected by the penalties.

As part of that effort, Obama spoke Monday with French President Francois Hollande. The French leader said in a statement that he and Obama discussed the importance of avoiding provocations in Ukraine and establishing a policy of strong and calibrated sanctions along with other European partners.

A high-ranking European Union official said foreign ministers did decide Monday to sanction more Russians with asset freezes and visa bans, though they appeared to stop short of the broader penalties on Russia's economy.

Judge to Ohio: Recognize out-of-state gay marriage

AMANDA LEE MYERS Associated Press

CINCINNATI (AP) — A federal judge on Monday ordered Ohio to recognize the marriages of same-sex couples performed in other states, and civil rights attorneys and gay marriage supporters immediately began looking ahead to their next fight: a lawsuit seeking to force Ohio to allow gay couples to marry.

Judge Timothy Black's ruling was a partial but significant victory for gay rights supporters, who called it a ing, judges in Kentucky and stepping stone for full mar- Tennessee have ordered riage equality in Ohio.

refusal to recognize gay constitutional rights and

cumstances."

"The record before this court ... is staggeringly devoid of any legitimate justification for the state's ongoing arbitrary discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation," Black wrote.

Gay marriage is legal in 17 states and Washington, D.C. Federal judges recently have struck down gay marriage bans in Michigan, Utah, Texas, Oklahoma and Virginia, though stays have been issued pending appeals.Similar to Ohio's rulcouples.

The state to appeal Black's ruling, arguing that Ohio has a sovereign right to ban gay marriage, which voters did overwhelmingly in 2004.

Al Gerhardstein, the Cincinnati civil rights attorney who filed the lawsuit that led to Black's ruling, said Monday that he's been speaking with several gay couples who want to win the right to marry in Ohio. He plans to file a lawsuit in the matter in the next couple weeks.

ples to marry in the state. Black delayed deciding whether to issue a stay of Monday's ruling pending appeal until after attorneys on both sides present arguments on the issue by Tues-

However, Black said he's inclined to put the ruling on hold pending appeal, except for a portion that applies to the four gay couples who filed the February lawsuit that led to the court case. That would mean the state would immediately have to recognize their "The governor believes that He called Black's ruling "a marriages and list both marriage is between a man state officials to recognize sweeping declaration" in spouses as parents on their and a woman, he supports Black ruled that Ohio's out-of-state gay marriag- favor of gay marriage and children's birth certificates. es. The Kentucky decision thinks the judge has given If Black declines to stay his marriage is a violation of has been stayed pending a clear indication that he ruling, that would allow gay appeal, while Tennessee's would rule in favor of forc- couples in Ohio to obtain "unenforceable in all cir- ruling applies to only three ing Ohio to allow gay cou- the same benefits as any

other married couple in the state, including property rights and the right to make some medical decisions for their partner.

Ed FitzGerald, the presumptive Democratic nominee for governor in the November election, said Black's ruling "begins to open the door to full marriage equality in Ohio" and criticized Republican Gov. John Kasich for opposing equal rights.

Kasich spokesman Rob Nichols said in a statement: Ohio's constitutional ban on same-sex marriage, and we're glad the attorney general is appealing the ruling."

Anuba 1010/1

Police: Mom admitted to killing her 6 babies

BRADY McCOMBS Associated Press

PROVO, Utah (AP) — AUthorities say a U.S. woman accused of killing six babies that she gave birth to over 10 years told investigators that she either strangled or suffocated the children and then put them inside boxes in the garage of her home in the western state of Utah.

According to a probable cause statement released by police Monday, Megan Huntsman said that between 1996 and 2006, she gave birth to at least seven babies and that all but one of them were born alive.

Huntsman, 39, said she killed them immediately after they were born, and put their bodies inside the boxes. The statement said each baby was wrapped in either a towel or a shirt, and placed in a plastic bag.

Huntsman is being held on \$6 million bail — \$1 million for each baby she's accused of killing. It wasn't immediately clear if she had an attorney.

Huntsman was arrested Sunday on six counts of murder after police found the infants' tiny bodies in her former home in Pleasant Grove, a leafy, sleepy town about 35 miles (56 ki-

lometers) south of Salt Lake City. A seventh baby found appears to have been stillborn, Utah County Attorney Jeffrey Buhman said.

determine if the seven babies had the same father or multiple fathers, Buhman said.

The gruesome case has



This photo provided by the Utah County jail shows Megan Huntsman, who was booked into the Utah County jail on suspicion of killing six of her newborn children over the past decade. Seven dead babies were found in a garage at a Pleasant Grove home where Huntsman lived up until 2011.

(AP Photo/Utah County Jail)

During the interview with police, Huntsman was unemotional and matter of fact, according to Pleasant Grove police Lt. Britt Smith.

Formal charges have not yet been filed against Huntsman and no other arrests have been made but Buhman said the investigation remains open.

Investigators were trying to

raised a series of auestions about how the killings occurred despite Huntsman carrying out what neighbors said seemed like a normal existence.

"How can you have a baby and not have evidence and other people know?" asked neighbor SanDee Wall. "You can't plan when a baby is going to come. Just the thought

of somebody putting a baby into a box is a heartbreaker."

Police declined to comment on a motive and on what Huntsman said during an interview with investiga-

Her estranged husband, Darren West, who had recently been in prison on drug-related charges, made the discovery Saturday with fellow family members while cleaning out the garage of the house, which is owned by his parents. He called Huntsman, who admitted to him it was her baby, according to court documents.

West called police, who then found the six other bodies in the garage, police Capt. Michael Roberts said.

Late Sunday, West's family issued a statement saying they were in a "state of shock and confusion."

The babies' bodies were sent to the Utah medical examiner's office for tests, including one to determine the cause of death. DNA samples taken from the suspect and her husband will determine definitively whether the two are the parents, as investigators believe. Investigators believe West and

U.S. appeals court overturns conflict minerals provision

WASHINGTON (AP) — A U.S. appeals court has overturned a disclosure requirement that public companies must post information about their use of minerals from Congo, where militias linked to atrocities have profited from mining minerals used in electronics, jewelry and other goods.

The appeals court says the requirement violates the constitutional free speech rights of companies that must inform the Securities and Exchange Commission and publicize on their websites that any of their products have not been found to be free of mineral conflicts.

While overturning the disclosure requirement, the court rejected industry arguments that the SEC must conduct rigorous, quantitative economic analysis on the costs and the benefits of the conflict minerals rule.

An agency is not required to measure the immeasurable, and need not conduct a rigorous, quantitative economic analysis unless the law explicitly directs it to do so, wrote appellate judge A. Raymond Randolph.

The conflict minerals provision is part of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act and Dennis Kelleher, president and chief executive of Better Markets, a non-profit organization, said that provision in the appeals court decision takes away one of the financial industry's constant arguments — that reform costs too much money. Rejecting the industry ar-

guments is profoundly important for financial reform. because it will enable the SEC to actually pass many other financial reform rules, said Kelleher. In the portion of its ruling

overturning the disclosure requirement, Randolph said the label about not being free of mineral conflict requires a company to tell consumers that products are ethically tainted, even if they only indirectly finance armed groups.

Feds charge woman in **Hillary Clinton shoe-throw**

LAS VEGAS (AP) — AUthorities have filed federal charges against a Phoenix woman accused of throwing a shoe on stage while Hillary Rodham Clinton gave a convention speech.

The trespassing and violence charges lodged Sunday against Alison Michelle Ernst in U.S. District Court in Las Vegas come as local prosecutors consider a misdemeanor disorderly con-Ernst didn't respond to a Mandalay Bay resort.

phone message Monday, and it isn't clear if she has a lawyer.

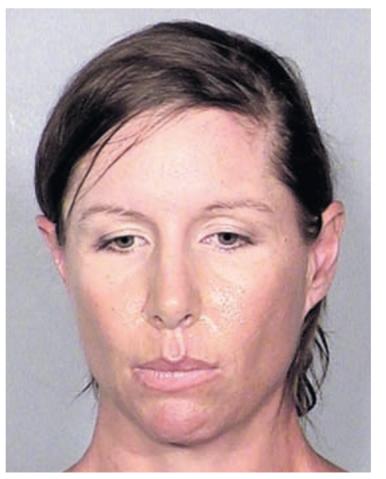
The 36-year-old faces a June 24 court date on the local charge, which could get her six months in county jail stemming from the incident Thursday.

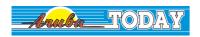
A court date in the federal case wasn't immediately set.

Clinton wasn't struck by the shoe. She continued her speech to a recycling duct charge in state court. industry conference at the

This image provided by the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department shows Alison Ernst, who was arrested April 10, 2014 in connection with an incident involving throwing a shoe at Former Secretary of State and Former First Lady Hillary Clinton. Alison was arrested for Disorderly Conduct and released.

(AP Photo)





Authorities say hate motivated Kansas shooting

MARIA SUDEKUM Associated Press

OVERLAND PARK, Kansas (AP) — The Army veteran and retired trucker with Ku Klux Klan links accused of killing three people outside a Jewish community center was never one to manhunt, was jailed on a preliminary charge of firstdegree murder.

Douglass said the suspect made several statements to police, "but it's too early to tell you what he may or may not have said" during the attacks. He also

ter; and 53-year-old occupational therapist Terri LaManno, a Catholic who was visiting her mother at the retirement complex near the community cen-

All three were Christians. Rebecca Sturtevant, a hos-

that she said authorities had been to their home. The law center said the suspect has been involved

in the white-supremacist movement for most of his life. He founded the Carolina Knights of the Ku Klux Klan and was its "grand dragon" in the 1980s. The truck driver later founded another white supremacist group, the White Patriot Party, the center said.

He was the subject of a nationwide manhunt in 1987 for violating the terms of his bond while appealing a North Carolina conviction for operating a paramili-



In this Sunday, April 13, 2014 image from video provided by KCTV-5, Frazier Glenn Cross, also known as Frazier Glenn Miller, is escorted by police in an elementary school parking lot in Overland Park, Kan. Cross, 73, accused of killing three people in attacks at a Jewish community center and Jewish retirement complex near Kansas City, is a known white supremacist and former Ku Klux Klan leader who was once the subject of a nationwide manhunt.

(AP Photo/KCTV-5)

keep his hatred for himself. though there is scant evidence he had ever resorted to violence before.

Frazier Glenn Cross of Missouri, a known white supremacist, has not been formally charged in the slayings, but officials said more information about charges was expected Tuesday. Federal prosecutors were moving to put the case before a grand jury.

Police suspect Cross fatally shot two people Sunday afternoon in the parking lot behind the Jewish Community Center of Greater Kansas City, then drove to a retirement community where he shot a third person. He was arrested in an elementary school parking

"We have unquestionably determined through the work of law enforcement that this was a hate crime," Overland Park Police Chief John Douglass said, refusing to elaborate on the evidence.

Cross, a former Ku Klux Klan leader who was once the subject of a nationwide said it was too early in the investigation to determine whether Cross had an anti-Semitic motive. The Jewish festival of Passover begins Monday evening.

SITE, a U.S.-based terror monitoring group, described the suspect as a known and vocal anti-Semite who frequently calls for genocide against Jews. Police said the attacks happened within minutes. The gunman shot two people in the parking lot behind the Jewish Community Center of Greater Kansas City. He then drove a few blocks to a retirement community, Village Shalom, and gunned down a woman or girl there, Douglass said. Officers arrested him in an elementary school parking lot soon after.

and never entered any buildings, police said.

The victims were identified as Dr. William Lewis Corporon, who died at the scene; his 14-year-old grandson, Reat Griffin Underwood, who died at Overland Park Regional Medical Cenpital spokeswoman, said family members told her Corporon took his grandson to the community center to try out for a student singing competition. Reat was a high school freshman and an Eagle Scout. Cross is also known as Frazier Glenn Miller. A public records search shows he has used both names, but he refers to himself on his website as Glenn Miller and went by the name Frazier Glenn Miller in 2006 and 2010 campaigns for public office.

Cross lives in a small singlestory home bordered on three sides with barbed wire fences just outside the small southwest Missouri town of Aurora, some 180 miles south of Overland Park. A red Chevrolet The gunman shot at but bearing two Confederate missed two other people flag stickers was parked outside.

> An AP reporter knocked on the front door of the house early Monday but no one answered.

> The Southern Poverty Law Center, which tracks hate groups, said it reached his wife, Marge, by phone and

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Rockaways:

Funeral honors officer who died after responding to fire

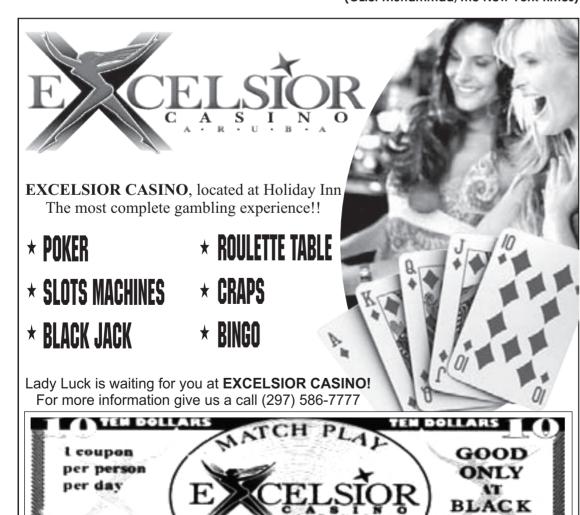


Cathy Guerra receives the flag that draped her husband Dennis' coffin during his funeral at St. Rose of Lima Roman Catholic Church in New York, April 14, 2014. Dennis Guerra, a police officer and father of four, died last week after responding to a fire in a high-rise building, which made him the first officer in more than two years to die in the line of duty.

(Ozier Muhammad/The New York Times)

JACK

Y INN ARUBA



MARC SANTORA
MICHAEL WILSON
© 2014 New York Times

NEW YORK - The police came for one of their own, a fellow officer in the New York City Police Department who died doing what so many of them had done before: responding to a call for help, not knowing what dangers might lurk.

The people from the neighborhood poured into the streets for one of their own, a boy who grew up in the Rockaways, made good and followed in the footsteps of his father, a retired detective, serving the city he loved.

And the family of Dennis Guerra, 38, came to bury their own, a husband and a father of four.

They all came for the funeral of Guerra at St. Rose of Lima Church in Rockaway Beach. He was the first police officer to die in the line of duty in two years, and the first to die while responding to a fire in a residential building in three decades.

"No other profession will give you as much, but sometimes, take as much," William J. Bratton, the police commissioner, said during the solemn service. "There's an extra angel in heaven now to watch over the guys in blue."

Mayor Bill de Blasio announced that Guerra would be posthumously promoted to first-grade detective.

In his speech, the mayor noted that Guerra's eight years on the force were marked by acts of kindness. After Hurricane Sandy, Guerra spent long shifts bringing supplies and food to those in need, he said. Only then would he go home and resume repairs

on his own storm-damaged house in Far Rockaway.

The Rockaways, that thin sliver of coastal land on the far east side of Queens, were once again transformed Monday.

The Cross Bay-Veterans' Memorial Bridge was turned into a ribbon of flashing red and blue lights. The police, standing shoulder to shoulder, made a sea of blue, their polished brass buttons glittering in the sun. Around the church, the music of bagpipes and snare drums filled the air.

"It's quite the send-off," said Kat Raynor, 37, who lives nearby. "So sad."

As Guerra's hearse made its way to the church, a steady wind blowing in from the Atlantic Ocean snapped to attention the dozens of American flags set along the route.

With the police standing vigil, people from the neighborhood bowed their heads, including many teenagers wearing dark blue sweatshirts bearing the name of Beach Channel High School.

"He was a neighborhood kid," said Theresa Bennett, 36, who stood on the boardwalk to watch the procession. "It's very beautiful, the ceremony."

For the police force, Guerra's death was a stark reminder of how danger can lurk in every call, no matter how routine.

tective.

Guerra and another officer, Rosa Rodriguez, were on patrol in Coney Island on April 6 when they remarked by acts of kindness. After Hurricane San-

From the outside, there were no flames to be seen and nothing to prepare them for what they would find inside.



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US Financial Front:

America's retail sales up strong 1.1 percent in March

MARTIN CRUTSINGER AP Economics Writer retail sales in March rose by the largest amount in 18 months, led by strong gains in sales of autos, furniture and a number of other products.

The 1.1 percent jump reported by the Commerce Department on Monday was the best showing since September 2012. The government also revised February to a 0.7 percent gain, more than double its previous estimate.

Sales had fallen in January and December.

percent while sales at general merchandise stores, a category that covers retailers such as Wal-Mart and Target and department stores, increased 1.9 percent, the strongest onemonth gain since March 2007, before the country fell into recession.

The strong March gain provides more evidence that the economy is emerging from a harsh winter with some momentum.

Economists believe that **WASHINGTON (AP)** — U.S. warmer weather will encourage people to make purchases that they had not during a wave of winter storms. Consumers account for 70 percent of U.S. economic activity, so spending on that front is critical in fueling a stronger recovery. "Rising wealth, shrinking debt burdens and improving labor markets are helping American shoppers shake off the winter blahs," said Sal Guatieri, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets.

Guatieri said he believed Sales of autos climbed 3.1 overall economic growth slowed to a 1.2 percent annual rate in the January-March quarter but will rebound to growth of 3.3 percent in the second quarter. Many analysts believe a strong rebound in the current quarter will last through the rest of the year with growth averaging around 3 percent in the second half of 2014.

> For March, sales in a core category of products that

calculations of overall growth rose by 0.9 percent, more than double the 0.5 percent gain in February. In addition to the strong

feed into the government's stores, hardware stores and clothing stores.

Stronger growth is expected to translate into more hiring and an improving labor market.

lost during the recession were recovered. Private businesses shed 8.8 million jobs during the 2007-2009 economic downturn. With the March gains, they have



A pedestrian passes a J.Crew store in the Shadyside shopping district of Pittsburgh. The Commerce Department reported positive data on retail sales for March on Monday, April 14, 2014. (AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

showing for auto dealers In March, the economy stores, sales increased by was a long time coming. All

and general merchandise reached a milestone that solid amounts at furniture of the private-sector jobs now hired 8.9 million workers. Government jobs are below prerecession





More Renters Find 30% Affordability Ratio Unattainable

SHAILA DEWAN
© 2014 New York Times

MIAMI - For rent and utilities to be considered affordable, they are supposed to take up no more than 30 percent of a household's income. But that goal is increasingly unattainable for middle-income families as a tightening market pushes up rents ever faster, outrunning modest rises in pay.

The strain is not limited to the usual high-cost cities like New York and San Francisco. An analysis for The New York Times by Zillow, the real estate website, found 90 cities where the median rent - not including utilities - was more than 30 percent of the median gross income.

In Chicago, rent as a percentage of income has risen to 31 percent, from a historical average of 21 percent. In New Orleans, it has more than doubled, to 35 percent from 14 percent. Zillow calculated the historical average using data from 1985 to 2000.

Nationally, half of all rent-

ers are now spending more than 30 percent of their income on housing, according to a comprehensive Harvard study, up from 38 percent of renters in 2000. In December, Housing Secretary Shaun Donovan declared "the worst rental affordability crisis that this country has ever known." Apartment vacancy rates have dropped so low that forecasters at Capital Economics, a research firm, said rents could rise, on average, as much as 4 percent this year, compared with 2.8 percent last year. But rents are rising faster than that in many cities even as overall inflation is running at little more than 1 percent annually.

One of the most expensive cities for renters is Miami, where rents, on average, consume 43 percent of the typical household income, up from a historical average of just more a quarter. Stella Santamaria, a divorced 40-year-old math teacher, has been looking for an apartment in Miami for more than six months. "We're kind of sick of talk-

ing about it," she said of herself and fellow teachers in the same boat. "It's like, 'Are you still living with your mom?' 'Yeah, are you?' 'Yeah.'"

After 11 years as a teacher, Santamaria makes \$41,000, considerably less

on net, about 6.2 million tenants, compared with 208,000 homeowners, said Stan Humphries, the chief economist of Zillow.

That trend is continuing as young people and doubled-up families move out on their own.

"I've come down to the conclusion that in this country, it's easier for two people to pay the rent than for one person," he said.

For many middle- and lower-income people, high rents choke spending on years, according to the CoStar Group, a real estate research firm.

But demand has shown no signs of slackening. And as long as there are plenty of upper-income renters looking for apartments, there is little incentive to build any-



A high-rise apartment complex under construction in Miami, where rents on average consume 43% of the typical household income, April 9, 2014. Affordable housing is increasingly unattainable for middle-income families as a tightening market pushes up rent, outrunning modest rises in pay.

(Angel Valentin/The New York Times)

than the city's median income, which is \$48,000, according to Zillow.

Even dual-income professional couples are being priced out of the walkable urban-core neighborhoods where many of them want to live. Stuart Kennedy, 29, a senior program officer at a nonprofit group, said he and his girlfriend, a lawyer, will be losing their \$2,300 a month rental house in Buena Vista in June. Since they found the place a year ago, rents in the area have increased sharply.

"If you go by a third of your income, that formula, even with how comfortable our incomes are, it looks like it's going to be impossible," Kennedy said.

Part of the reason for the squeeze on renters is simple demand - between 2007 and 2013 the U.S. added,

"They're creating a lot of incremental demand," Humphries said.

But new households rarely plunge straight into homeownership, especially given that mortgages are much harder to obtain than they were before the financial crisis. "The expectation is that when they strike out into their own units they'll be moving into rental as opposed to the owner side," he said.

And as rents head higher in the tightest markets, many are discovering that living on their own is proving unaffordable, forcing them to double up again. Arturo Breton, a 37-year-old waiter in Miami Beach, said that after years living on his own, he was joining forces with a roommate who works as a manager at J.C. Penney.

other goods and services, impeding the economic recovery. Low-income families that spend more than half their income on housing spend about a third less on food, 50 percent less on clothing, and 80 percent less on medical care compared with lowincome families with affordable rents, accordina to a new report by the National Low Income Housing Coalition. And renters amass less wealth, even nonhousing wealth, than homeowners do.

The problem threatens to get worse before it gets better. Apartment builders have raced to build more units, creating a wave of supply that is beginning to crest. Miami added 2,500 rental apartments last year, and 7,500 more are expected in the next two

thing other than expensive units. As a result, there are in effect two separate rental markets that are so far apart in price that they have little effect on each other. Cities have been left to address the problem on their own, with some granting exceptions to their own zoning laws to allow for things like micro-apartments. Miami has allowed some variances to its urban plan for projects like Brickell View Terrace, which will have 176 units in a prime location near a Metrorail station. Ninety of the units will be affordable for people making 60 percent of the median income, 10 for people making less, and the rest will be market rate. But a seemingly insatiable demand for luxury condos in Miami, created in part by wealthy Latin Americans.

WORLD NEWS 9 TUESDAY 15 APRIL 2014



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El-Sissi now in final step to run for president

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's former military chief on Monday took the final formal step to run in next month's presidential election, submitting to the election commission eight times the number of signatures required, his campaign said in a statement.

Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, a retired field marshal, did not deliver the 200,000 signatures in person. His campaign said a legal adviser, Mohammed Bahaa Abou Shaqah, delivered them.

Photos released by the campaign and footage aired on local TV networks showed security guards delivering white boxes with an image of the retired soldier plastered on the side along with the name of the province from which it said the signatures were obtained.

Officials from the election commission could not be reached to confirm the campaign's statement.

It is mandatory for any presidential hopeful to secure 25,000 signatures from at least 15 of the nation's 27 provinces in order to run in the May 26-27 vote. El-Sissi, who led the ouster of President Mohammed Morsi last July, was the first hopeful to submit the signatures.

El-Sissi's likely chief rival in the election is leftist politician Hamdeen Sabahi, who finished a strong third in the first round of the last presidential election, in June 2012. Morsi won the race in a runoff against second-placed Ahmed Shafiq, the last prime minister to serve under ousted president Hosni Mubarak. El-Sissi's campaign says

more signatures contin-

ue to pour into its Cairo

headquarters.

Ukraine struggles as east slips out of its control

MARIA DANILOVA
PETER LEONARD
Associated Press
HORLIVKA, Ukraine (AP)
— The fuel is local, but the

small numbers have hit the streets in support, however, and it is increasingly evident the purported uprising is far from spontaneous "The Russian Federation is sending special units to the east of our country, which seize administrative buildings with the use of

the lives of hundreds of thousands of our citizens in danger," Turchynov said, according to the presidential web-site. Peacekeepers, however,

weapons and are puttina

would have to be authorized by the U.N. Security Council, where Russia holds a veto.

Pro-Russian activists point to what they say is an aggressively nationalistic government as justification for their actions. The Cabinet in charge since the overthrow of President Viktor Yanukovych in February includes some nationalist figures, but there is no substantive evidence the Russian-speaking population has been subject to any widespread intimidation in recent weeks.

The relative ease with which pro-Russian groups have been able to overwhelm resistance was in full display Monday in the Donetsk region city of Horlivka.



Masked pro-Russian men attack British photojournalist Frederick Paxton during the mass storming of a police station in the eastern Ukrainian town of Horlivka Monday, April 14, 2014. Several government buildings has fallen to mobs of Moscow loyalists in recent days as unrest spreads across the east of the country. Western journalists have routinely been targeted by intimidation by crowds during stormings.

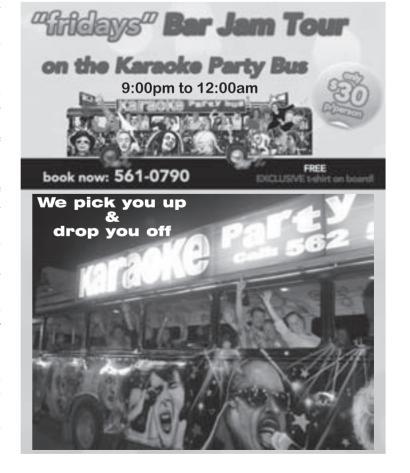
(AP Photo/Efrem Lukatsky)

matches are Russian. That in a nutshell is how the insurgency threatening the survival of Ukraine as a unified state is increasingly unfolding.

Over the past 10 days, more than a dozen government offices in eastern Ukraine have been taken over by pro-Russian forces, with most of the seizures following the same pattern. Aggressive gangs, sometimes carrying firearms and wearing military fatigues, storm the buildings. The Ukrainian flag is replaced with a Russian one. Then local men move in to hold them. Those capturing the buildings insist they are carrying out the will of the people and have demanded a referendum on autonomy for the eastern Donetsk region. Relatively

and is being carried out with unerring coordination. Russia has tens of thousands of troops massed along Ukraine's eastern border. Western governments accuse Moscow of fueling the unrest and worry that the specter of bloodshed could be used as a pretext for a Russian invasion, in a repeat of events in Crimea a few weeks ago.

The Ukrainian government's inability to quash the pro-Russian insurgency was highlighted by acting President Oleksandr Turchynov's call Monday for the deployment of United Nations peacekeeping troops in the east of his country. He said the presence of Russian meddling was clear in the unrest gripping his country.





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Pistorius resumes heated testimony in S. Africa

ALAN COWELL © 2014 New York Times PRETORIA, South Africa - It came down to a question of improbabilities and a "great leap."

On the fourth day of relentless cross-examination at his murder trial, Oscar Pistosays was a mistake.

In close detail, the prosecutor, Gerrie Nel, had Pistorius, 27, relive the final intimate moments of Steenkamp's life, as the athlete walked unsteadily down an unlit passage on his stumps from

star, a double amputee, intruder was behind the door.

> Then, Pistorius said, "I ran down the passage. I ran past my bed" to look for his girlfriend and call for help.

"When I realized that Reeva wasn't on the bed, that was the first time I thought she had been in the bathroom.

The exchanges went to the core of a case that has drawn a global audience and transfixed many in South Africa as the hearings, which opened on March 3, focus in ever greater detail on the state of Pistorius' mind in the early hours on Valentine's Day 2013, when, the prosecution maintains, he killed Steenkamp in a jealous rage.

The spectacle of the trial also offered a stark counterpoint to the days of 2012 when Pistorius, a double amputee since infancy, not only triumphed at the Paralympic Games but also competed against ablebodied athletes at the London Olympics a month earlier, earning great adulation. On his return home, he and Steenkamp, a model and law graduate, were depicted as a gilded couple.

But that glittery trajectory of success and celebrity has collapsed. Headlines that once lauded Pistorius now focus on his increasing discomfort as a hardnose prosecutor sets out to paint a picture of inconsistency, improbability and mendacity. If convicted of premeditated murder, he would face a minimum prison term of 25 years.



Prosecutor Gerrie Nel cross-examines Oscar Pistorius during his murder trial in Pretoria, South Africa on April 14, 2014. In testimony that twice left Pistorius broken down and sobbing, Nel had the double-amputee track star relive in close detail the final moments of Reeva Steenkamp, the girlfriend Pistorius fatally shot through his bathroom door.

(Antoine de Ras/Pool via The New York Times)

early hours of Feb. 14, 2013, when he shot his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp, 29, in what the prosecution says was an act of premeditated murder and the track count, that at least one door" rather than assume

pistol in his right hand, and into a bathroom where he fired four rounds at the locked door of a toilet cu-

rius was taken back to the his darkened bedroom, a it might be Reeva in the bathroom," Pistorius said. But, Nel said, the "first thing you would think is that you would check whether she bicle, believing, by his ac-left through the bedroom

Dutch arrest girl whose tweet threatened airline

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Police in the Netherlands have arrested a 14-year-old girl on suspicion of threatening American Airlines in a tweet.

Police spokesman Roland Ekkers said the girl, who has

not been identified for privacy reasons, turned herself in to Rotterdam police in the company of a parent Monday and is now being interrogated.

The tweet posted Sunday said it came from an al-Qaida member in Afghanistan named Ibrahim and threatened to "do something really big on June 1." But the account's handle came with the nickname "Sarah" and a profile image of a young woman.

Apologetic tweets were posted to the account after the airline replied it was taking the threat seriously and calling in law enforcement. Ekkers said the motive for the tweet is not yet known.

Coulson says **Brooks affair** was 'wrong'

JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Former News of the World editor Andy Coulson took the stand at Britain's phone hacking trial Monday, saying his affair with fellow executive Rebekah Brooks was wrong but didn't lead him to share work secrets with her.

Coulson, who is on trial alongside Brooks and five others, also denied knowing while he was editor that a private investigator employed by the tabloid had been hacking phones. Britain's hacking scandal erupted in 2011, when it emerged that the scoophungry News of the World had secretly listened to the voicemails people in the public eye. Coulson, 46, told jurors at London's Central Criminal Court that his on-again, off-again affair with Brooks, which began in 1998 and ended in 2004, "was wrong and it shouldn't have happened."

He denied the relationship led him to share sensitive information with Brooks.

Prosecutors have suggested the affair meant that if one was aware that phone hacking was taking place, the other must also have known.

Brooks, Coulson and the other defendants deny all charges.

Coulson was News of the World editor when its royal correspondent and a private investigator were arrested in 2006 for eavesdropping on the voicemails of royal aides. \square



WORLD NEWS A11 TUESDAY 15 APRIL 2014

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Chile's Valparaiso still aflame; 12 dead; 500 hurt

EVA VERGARA Associated Press VALPARAISO, Chile (AP) —

Helicopters and airplanes dumped water on wildfires and the smoldering wreckage of hilltop neighborhoods Monday as sailors in riot gear prepared to evacuate 700 more families who would be endangered if the winds turn again.

Already 8,000 people were homeless as wildfires sent burning embers flying from hilltop to hilltop, destroying 2,000 homes in this picturesque coastal city. Smoke rose from smoldering ruins all over the city, a scene many compared to Dante's inferno.

After days without sleep, some people made their way home, only to discover complete ruins. The fires, so hot that they created their own fierce winds, consumed entire neighborhoods in some places. In others, a few houses emerged unscathed, but they too remained in danger with so many embers still glowing in the shifting winds.

Chile's forestry agency predicted Monday that the fires won't be fully extinguished for another 20 days.

Aid was flowing from all over Chile to Valparaiso, where evacuees crowded into eight shelters. Chile's President Michelle Bachelet met with her ministers to oversee the emergency response.

The fires began Saturday in a forested ravine and quickly consumed ramshackle housing on one of Valparaiso's 42 hills. Hot dry winds blowing out to sea then kicked up the embers, which hopped across neighborhoods on six densely populated hills,

constructed homes without municipal water connections, fire hydrants or streets wide enough for emergency vehicles.

Sunday afternoon's winds kicked up the flames again,

where people live in poorly and by Monday morning, evacuees. the helicopters were still flying without pause, dumping water on hotspots.

Schools were closed Monday in the city, since some were damaged and others were overflowing with

Bachelet toured the shelters and canceled this week's trip to Argentina and Uruguay, warning that it "could be the worst fire in the city's history."

Valparaiso is an oceanside

city of 250,000 people surrounded by hills that form a natural amphitheater. The compact downtown includes Chile's congress and its second-largest port, and the city owes its status as a UNESCO World Heritage Site to the colorful homes built on slopes so steep that many people commute using staircases and cable cars. But what's beautiful on

postcards can be dangerous for those who live there: Many people have built on land not fit for housing.

"We are too vulnerable as a city. We have been the builders and architects of our own danger," Valparaiso Mayor Jorge Castro said Sunday in an interview with Chile's 24H channel. Three of the 12 victims were identified, including one man who escaped the flames Saturday, but died of a heart attack on Sunday after returning to

discover that the flames

took everything he had.



Firefighters take a break from battling blazes after an out of control forest fire reached urban areas in the city of Valparaiso, Chile, early Monday April 14, 2014. Firefighters struggled to contain blazes that reached this port city, killing at least a dozen people, destroyed hundreds homes and has forced the evacuation of thousands.

(AP Photo/Luis Hidalgo)

String of quakes puts Nicaraguans on edge

ALBERTO ARCE LUIS MANUEL GALEANO Associated Press

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — Thousands of Nicaraguans woke up in the streets Monday after a sleepless night rocked by two strong earthquakes, part of a string of tremors that have kept the Central American country on edge since late last week.

A magnitude-6.1 quake Thursday evening has been followed by hundreds of small aftershocks and at least seven quakes powerful enough to send people running in panic from homes and businesses, including a magnitude-6.6 tremor Friday.

The Sandinista government has placed the country on red alert, the highest possible level, and is urging Nicaraguans to sleep outside their homes until further no-

Life in Nicaragua, whose capital was devastated in 1972 by a magnitude-6.2 quake that killed nearly 10,000 people, has become a tense game of waiting between shakes. In Santa Ana, a poor neighborhood a few blocks from the major fault line that

crosses Managua and caused the 1972 quake, dozens of people took refuge in a bar and on the street outside after their shacks were damaged by the latest tremors.

On Sunday night, the country was hit by magnitude-4.6 and magnitude-5.6 quakes. On Monday morning, members of the 23 families sheltering at the bar moved chairs off the tables to make room for more people.

"We didn't sleep a wink last night," said Ana Maria Echaniz, 30. "It's continuous anxiety, fear that comes emergency." and goes all the time."

First lady Rosario Murillo, who is the government's spokeswoman, said the recent seismic activity had reactivated the Managua fault, frightening city residents with memories of the 1972 quake. The U.S. Geological Survey said it could not confirm that, but said it was common for large quakes to affect nearby faults, sometimes making them more liable to cause new quakes and sometimes less so.

"We have to live on constant alert," Murillo said Monday. "Follow our instructions.

We're still in a state of high

A few hundred meters (yards) away, Daniela Artola, 56, checked the severely cracked walls of a motorcycle dealership that abuts her home. The building was one of the few in the neighborhood that survived the 1972 quake.



Glencore to sell Peruvian mine to Chinese group for \$6 billion

NEIL GOUGH © 2014 New York Times

HONG KONG - A consortium of state-owned Chinese companies led by the China Minmetals Corp., one of the country's biggest metals miners, announced an agreement Monday to buy a giant copper mine in Peru from Glencore Xstrata for more than \$6 billion.

In a deal that demonstrates how Chinese regulators are influencing global mergers and acquisitions far beyond China's borders, Glencore said it would sell its Las Bambas copper mine project to the Chinese group for \$5.85 billion in cash plus development

The sale of the mine was a condition stipulated last year by China's Commerce Ministry before it approved the \$30 billion purchase by Glencore International, a Swiss commodities trader, of the mining company Xstrata.

MMG Ltd., a subsidiary of China Minmetals that is listed in Hong Kong, leads the buyers' consortium with a 62.5 percent stake. Guoxin International Investment Corp., a state-owned infrastructure and resources company, has a stake of 22.5 percent, while Citic Metal, the metal trading unit of the state-owned Citic Group conglomerate, owns 15 percent.

In addition to the \$5.85 billion, the buyers have also agreed to cover all costs of developing the mine between the start of this year and the formal closing of the transaction, which is expected to take place by the end of September - a deadline imposed by Chinese regulators. Glencore said that so far those expenses amounted to \$400 million in the first quarter.

The Commerce Ministry, which enforces China's antimonopoly law, took more than a year before finally approving the merger of Glencore with Xstrata in April 2013. Citing antitrust concerns, the regulator ordered the divestment of the Las Bambas project,

an open-pit mine in the advanced stages of construction that is expected to have initial production of 2 million tons of copper a year.

In addition, the Commerce Ministry required Glencore to agree to guarantee the supply of copper, zinc and lead to Chinese companies through 2020 by signing long-term supply contracts.

Ivan Glasenberg, chief executive of Glencore, said that since the Xstrata deal was completed in May, "our team has taken decisive steps to de-risk Las Bambas, which has culminated in this compelling offer from the consortium."

"Our willingness to sell reflects the level of the offer and our conviction that we can utilize the sale proceeds to create additional shareholder value," Glasenberg said.

MMG Ltd. is being advised by Bank of America's Merrill Lynch unit and Citigroup, and it will receive debt financing from the China Development Bank, the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China and the Bank of China. China Minmetals was advised by Deutsche Bank. Glencore was advised by BMO Capital Markets and Credit Su-

Glencore said the sale of the mine to the consortium was subject to shareholder and regulatory approvals, including approval by China's Commerce Ministry.

Separately, a subsidiary of Glencore agreed Monday to acquire Caracal Energy for 5.50 pounds a share, or about \$9.20, in cash, in a deal valued at about £806 million. The price represents a 61 percent premium over Caracal's closing price Fri-

After receiving an unsolicited offer from Glencore, Caracal canceled agreement to merge with TransGlobe Energy and paid a \$9.25 million termination fee. Caracal is a Canadian international oil exploration and development company active in the Republic of Chad.

Spain eyes stronger ties with UAE visit

ADAM SCHRECK Associated Press

ABU DHABI, United Arab **Emirates (AP)** — King Juan Carlos of Spain began a visit to the Persian Gulf region on Monday by telling United Arab Emirates officials that deepening ties with their oil-rich country was a top priority, highlighting the role wealthy

Spain struggles to grow its economy and generate much-needed jobs after emerging from a doubledip recession last year. The eurozone's fourth-largest economy is grappling with a near-record unemployment rate of 26 percent.

It is the 76-year-old monarch's first trip off the Iberian Peninsula since he underny, known as CEPSA, since 1988.

Other Gulf states have shown interest in doing business with Spain too.

A Spanish-led consortium is developing a multibilliondollar high-speed rail link between the Muslim holy cities of Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia, and an advertisement for the



In this image released by the Emirates News Agency, WAM, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, right, talks with Juan Carlos, King of Spain on the sidelines of the UAE - Spain Economic Forum. (AP Photo/Ryan Carter - Crown Prince Court - Abu Dhabi)

Arab states could play in shoring up the battered Spanish economy.

The Spanish head of state made the comments at the start of an economic forum in the Emirati capital Abu Dhabi, his first stop on a tour of six Gulf nations planned in the next few months. He was accompanied by a high-level delegation that includes several Spanish government ministers and representatives of major Spanish companies.

"The important official and business delegation that has come with me to Abu Dhabi today shows that the United Arab Emirates is at the top of our political and economic agenda," the king said in a chandelier-lit ballroom at the lavish beachfront Emirates Palace hotel. The visit to the OPEC member nation is expected to focus in large part on boosting trade and investment as went a hip replacement operation in November. He walked with the help of a cane and appeared to be in good health.

The UAE is the second largest Arab economy, behind Saudi Arabia. It is a federation of seven semiautonomous emirates that includes the commercial hub of Dubai and Abu Dhabi, which controls the bulk of the country's oil wealth. In 2011, Abu Dhabi's state-owned International Petroleum Investment Co. took full control of Spanish oil company Compania Espanola de Petroleos SA after paying 3.7 billion euro (then worth \$5 billion) for a nearly 49 percent share from French oil giant Total and offering to buy up other shares it didn't already own.

IPIC is one of several statelinked investment companies Abu Dhabi uses to invest its oil wealth. It has had a stake in the companatural-gas rich state of Qatar's national airline, Qatar Airways, graces the team shirts of Spanish football club Barcelona.

In 2012, an arm of Qatar's sovereign wealth fund paid Spanish company Ferrovial SA the equivalent of nearly \$750 million for its stake in the company that operates London's Heathrow and other British airports. Qatar Holding also owns a stake in Spanish power utility Iberdrola SA.

Not every Gulf deal has panned out. Spanish football team Real Madrid last year dropped a licensing agreement it had for a \$1 billion theme park in the lesser-developed UAE sheikdom of Ras Al Khaimah because of funding problems.

The Spanish king will visit Kuwait next, and plans to return to the region over the coming months for visits to Bahrain, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Qatar.





Aruba's Food & Beverage professionals enjoy exciting wine tasting!

PALM BEACH - Wente Vine- and Senior Vice-President yards Family Estates fine of Winemaking, Karl D. orchestrated Company who directs the company's at Wente Vineyards, workhands-on style, which he grown vineyards. shares with his siblings, Carolyn and Philip. Eric has visited Aruba on a number of occasions before, hosting charity golf tournaments and conducting wine seminars. Yet this time, he opted to leave the stage to his son, fifth generation Winemaker

wines, represented on Wente, who is responsible the island by Arion Wine for all winemaking at Wente Vineyards. As a matter a unique wine tasting at- of fact, 2013 will be Karl's tended by Eric Wente, 14th vintage and the 12th diverse operation with a ing with the family's estate-

> The tasting at the Hyatt Regency ballroom pitched the company's three famous Chardonnays against each other. Personally poured by Eric Wente, invited guests sipped Wente Vineyards Morning Fog Chardonnay, Livermore



Valley 2012, Riva Ranch Chardonnay, Arroyo Seco Monterey 2012 and The Nth Degree Chardonnay, Livermore Valley 2010, all wines made from grapes grown on the 3,000 acres of sustainably farmed estate vineyards, in California, just historic Livermore Valley and Monterey.

Talking to the invited local hoteliers and restaurateurs by Skype, Karl shared historical anecdotes peppered with important information about the wines, leading the tasting in a casual, fun

and most original personal style. He even volunteered to play his guitar towards the end of his presentation, adding an unexpected layer of fun to the event. Invited guests also tasted three of the company's Cabernet Sauvignons from east of San Francisco in the Livermore Valley, pitching them against each other, sipping Southern Hills Cabernet Sauvignon 2011, Charles Wetmore Cabernet Sauvignon 2011 and The Nth Degree Cabernet Sauvignon 2010.

Continued on Page 14







Continued from Page 13

Joost Röben with the marketing department at Arion Wine Company asked for a show of hands, and discovered that the room was equally divided among all three Chardonnays, and among the thee Cabernets, attesting to the fact that wine is a personal choice, and that winemakers must create differ-









ent style wines in order to please individual palates. Invited guests expressed great interest in the company's Nth Degree wines, a line of handcrafted, limited production wines, showing style and finesse of stellar degree.

As a conclusion to the much enjoyed event, the related Murrieta's Well, the Spur 2011 was tasted. It showed off the art of blending, combining the best the vineyard has to offer to create a most interesting and sumptuous red wine blend, which the forum found enticing, aromatic and flavorful.

California's oldest, continuously operated, family-owned winery, Wente Vineyards is lead today by the fourth and fifth generations of the Wente family, marking its 131st anniversary. Blending traditional and innovative winemaking practices, the winery

maintains its leadership role among in the California winegrowing community by producing an outstanding portfolio of fine wines. Before concluding his Skype presentation Karl invited his Aruban audience to visit the Wente Vineyards, recognized as one of the premier California wine country destinations, featuring wine tasting, fine dining and championship golf. "California wine and the California wine country lifestyle are recognized and appreciated worldwide," says Fourth Generation Winegrower Eric Wente. "Our family is dedicated to making superb wines, sustainably produced and affordably priced, and I travel the world to meet and mingle with our clients, in order to give them that message." Pictured here, snapshots from the unforgettable tasting. 🔲



Linda & Jerry Malloy honored at the Marriott Ocean Club!



PALM BEACH - Recently, Linda & Jerry Malloy were honored as Distinguished Visitors after returning to Aruba for 10 consecutive years.

The symbolic honorary title

is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to quests who visit Aruba for between 10-and-19 years Mrs. Linda commented consecutive.

Mr. Ricardo Croes rep-

resenting Aruba Tourism Authority conducted the ceremony at the Marriott Ocean Club.

that she will never change her vacation island for any other island.

Top reason for returning provided by the honorees were they consider Aruba to be the "Happy Island", the great weather, and Friendly Aruban Hospitality,

white sand beaches and the local food.

On the pictures Mr. Croes from ATA together with Linda & Jerry and hotel Rep. Juan Pablo & Lillian at the Marriott Ocean Club.





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Pelican Nest Restaurant offers an impressive selection of fresh seafood (caught daily by our own fleet), International dishes and a relaxing atmosphere. Open daily for dinner reservations call 297-586-2259 from 11





am. Our Captain's Morgan Last but not least our Piz-Pier Bar offers a daily happy hour from 4 till 6 pm.

zeria del Mar that offers a variety of pizzas.





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established seafood restau- appropriately called "Driftwood I





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Driftwood Restaurant. This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95 Charter deep sea fishing rates: \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 www.driftwoodaruba.com Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.

Indy 500 gives teams 2nd chance to make field

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The new qualifying format for the Indianapolis 500 now allows any entry that has not made the field at the end of the first day of qualifying a chance to make the last row of the grid on the second day.

The IndyCar Series announced the changes on Monday.

The changes allow positions 31-33 to be provisional. Those cars, plus any entry not already in the field that has declared intentions to qualify for the race, will participate in a separate qualification session May 18 to determine the 11th row on the grid.

IndyCar also added an extra day of practice to the schedule. The session will be held May 19 after the 33-car field has been set.

"As our qualifying format evolves we continue to evaluate what is best for the competitors," said Derrick Walker, IndyCar's president of competition. "We realized the need to provide teams that didn't get an attempt on Saturday an opportunity on Sunday to make the Indianapolis 500. Ultimately, we still capture the fastest 33 cars and that's who will make the race."

The qualifying changes come as IndyCar struggles to fill the 33-car field, making the once tension-filled Bump Day drama-free the last two years. Without additional entrants on hand trying to make the race, Sunday had become a glorified practice session. By making qualifying stretch over two days, Sunday at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway has be-

come relevant again



this Aug. 3, 2012, file photo, United States' Michael Phelps displays his gold medal for the men's 100-meter butterfly swimming final at the Aquatics Centre in the Olympic Park during the 2012 Summer Olympics in London. Phelps is coming out of retirement, the first step toward possibly swimming at the 2016 Rio Olympics. Bob Bowman, the swimmer's longtime coach, told The Associated Press on Monday, April 14, 2014, that Phelps is entered in three events — the 50- and 100-meter freestyles and the 100 butterfly at his first meet since the 2012 London Games at a meet in Mesa, Ariz., on April 24-26.

AL Capsules Beltran, Nova lead Yankees over Red Sox

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Carlos Beltran hit a two-run homer, Ivan Nova rebounded from a rough outing and the New York Yankees beat Boston 3-2 Sunday night with the aid of another disputed replay ruling that led to the ejection of Red Sox manager John

Beltran had three hits and was pressed into his first career appearance first base for the bangedup Yankees. Ichiro Suzuki robbed David Ortiz of extra bases with a spectacular catch in the eighth inning to help New York take three of four in the first series of the season between the longtime rivals. Mike Napoli homered and Felix Doubront (1-2) went 6 2-3 innings for the Red Sox, who scratched star second baseman Dustin



Boston Red Sox manager John Farrell gestures after was was ejected from the game by first base umpire Bob Davidson after Farrell objected to MLB's ruling of an overturned, fourth-inning, force out at first base in a baseball game against the New York Yankees at Yankee Stadium in New York, Sunday, April 13, 2014. The Yankees Brian McCann scored on the play. **Associated Press**

due to a sore left wrist. New York, playing without

Pedroia before the game Derek Jeter for the second consecutive game, scored its third run with the benefit

of instant replay in the fourth.

Continued on Page 21



Green jacket and golden moment for Bubba Watson

DOUG FERGUSON AP Golf Writer

AUGUSTA, Georgia (AP)

 For all the crazy stunts Bubba Watson does for fun, the green jacket was off limits.

When he won the Masters for the first time in 2012, he went to New York the next day for a media tour. He wore his green jacket walking the streets of Manhattan while going from one interview to the next one, and he was amazed by the attention it brought. No other piece of clothing in golf gets that kind of reaction.

But that was the extent of

Watson spoke about his year with the green jacket a week before returning to Augusta National to claim another one.

"I left it in the closet," he said. "Right or wrong, out of respect for the tournament and what it means, I didn't take it out too much. Didn't let my friends see it. Didn't let them touch it. It's a coveted trophy. It's a bia deal. And I know what kind of hard work it takes to get

Watson was reminded of that hard work when he won the Masters on Sunday by three shots over



Defending Masters' champion Adam Scott, of Australia, helps Bubba Watson, left, with his green jacket after winning the Masters golf tournament Sunday, April 13, 2014, in Augusta, Ga.

Associated Press

20-year-old Jordan Spieth and Jonas Blixt of Sweden. Even in perfect weather four days of sunshine, wind no more vexing than usual — only seven players broke

And while Watson didn't have to go extra holes and hit a wild hook out of the trees that "made me famous" as it did in 2012, just walking up the 18th fairway with a three-shot lead was no less exhausting.

"The first one for me, it's al-

most like I lucked into it," he

"This one was a lot of hard work, dedication, and I got back here."

He understands now that the hard work is just start-

For a guy who says he has never been drunk, Watson knows all about hangovers. Majors can be a life-changing moment, and it was more than he could handle two years ago when he first won the Masters. He signed more yellow pin flags than he cares to remember. There were obligations to his sponsors.

And there was a new son at home.

Along with the typical distractions of celebrity, Watson and his wife, Angie, adopted a boy just weeks before the 2012 Masters.

"We got him a month old," he said of his son, Caleb. "So getting used to smell, touch, feel, sound, every-

I had to be there for my son. Golf was the farthest thing from my mind. I took off some tournaments. Trying to be a good husband, a good dad, at that moment was the most important thing."

"This one," he added, "is a little different."

Much is expected of major champions.

Win two of them and the expectations get even higher. The question is whether Watson can develop some staying power. His ability to make the golf ball do things few others can — like travel extraordinary distances — makes him one of the most exciting players in golf.

The Masters was his sixth career win and took him to No. 4 in the world for the second time in his career.

How much higher can he go? How much better can he aet?

If three rounds in the 60s at Augusta National — no one else broke 70 more than once all week — were not enough evidence of his skill set, consider a couple of shots on the back nine. One was a driver with a big fade around the corner on the 13th hole that clipped a tree and still went 366 yards, leaving him a sand wedge into a par 5. \square



Miguel Angel Jimenez, of Spain, holds up his visor on the 18th hole following his fourth round of the Masters golf tournament Sunday, April 13, 2014, in Augusta, Ga

Associated Press

MARK LONG AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) --By **AP Sports Writer** Jimenez, Miguel Angel

Jimenez, Langer, Couples show age just a number

Bernhard Langer and Fred Couples made the Masters one for the ages - the older ages for sure.

The 50-somethings were good early and late at Augusta National, providing the leaderboard with a little nostalgia throughout golf's first major.

"I think it's a statement," Langer said. "There's a lot love the game, I love comof good over-50 players. peting and probably that is We can compete at the highest level, even on a very, very long golf course like this one."

The 50-year-old Jimenez led the charge, shooting a 1-under 71 in the final round and finishing four strokes behind winner Bubba Watson in fourth place. The 56-year-old Langer (69) was two shots better Sunday and finished tied for eighth. The 54-year-old Couples faded a bit with a final-round 75, but still ended up in the top 20.

"If you don't want to be here at 50, you shouldn't be here," Jimenez said. "I the reason."

Langer said guys are working harder to stay in shape. "A lot of guys used to say, 'I don't want to be on the Senior Tour, so I'll just quit when I'm 40 or 45 or something like that," Langer said. "It's all changed now."

The pre-tournament talk centered on the 24 Masters rookies, including six amateurs, in the field. Firsttimers Jordan Spieth and Jonas Blixt finished tied for second.

Having Jimenez, Langer and Couples in the hunt was equally startling. Then again, Jimenez believes any one of them could have won.

"Why not? Why not?" he said. "Fred Couples played nice. Langer played nice. I played nice, too. To win a tournament, you need to hit the ball well, putt good and go play. If you are able and ready to play, you got a chance."





Italy's Fabio Fognini celebrates after beating Britain's Andy Murray during a Davis Cup World Group quarterfinal tennis match in Naples, Italy, Sunday, April 6, 2014.

Associated Press

Fognini and Robredo into Monte Carlo 2nd round

JEROME PUGMIRE AP Sports Writer

MONACO (AP) — Tenthseeded Fabio Fognini of Italy and 11th-seeded Tommy Robredo of Spain reached the second round of the Monte Carlo Masters in contrasting fashion on Monday.

Fognini was two points away from defeat before rallying to beat Joao Sousa 5-7, 7-5, 6-4, while Robredo was more solid against qualifier David Goffin, beating the Belgian player 6-4, 6-1.

Sousa led 5-2 and 30-0 on Fognini's serve, but the Portuguese player lost his composure and then started complaining to the chair umpire at the end of the second set and midway through the third.

"I'm not happy today. I was I think a bit lucky," Fognini said. "It was a really difficult match."

The 10th-seeded Fognini, who lost to title-holder Novak Djokovic in last year's semifinals, was the highest seeded player in action Monday in the clay-court tournament.

Fognini failed to serve out the first set at 5-4 and then his game fell apart.

"I was completely without energy, without power in my legs," he said. "I have no idea what happened." After Fognini had served out the second set, the

crowd jeered Sousa — who had received a warning during the first set. At 3-2 down in the third, Sousa continued to grumble, saying "it's a joke, it's a joke." Fognini next plays Roberto Bautista Agut of Spain, who beat Canada's Vasek Pospisil 6-2, 6-2. Robredo, who saved eight of the nine break points he faced and broke Goffin's serve four times, next faces Julien Benneteau or Jurgen Melzer.

Later, 11th-seeded Tommy Robredo of Spain was playing qualifier David Goffin of Belgium.

In other first round matches, there were victories for Philipp Kohlschreiber of Germany, Czech players Radek Stepanek and Lukas Rosol; and Spaniards Albert Montanes, Albert Ramos and Pablo Andujar.

Rosol beat Evgeny Donskoy 7-5, 6-1; Kohlschreiber won 6-3, 6-4 against Simone Bolelli; Stepanek thrashed Ivo Karlovic 6-1, 6-2; Ramos beat Jarkko Nieminen 6-2, 7-5 and Andujar downed Edouard Roger-Vasselin 2-6, 7-5, 7-6 (5).

On Tuesday, Djokovic plays Montanes in the second round. On Wednesday, eight-time champion Rafael Nadal of Spain faces Gilles Simon or Teymuraz Gabashvili, and fourth-seeded Roger Federer takes on Stepanek.

Olympic great Michael Phelps ending retirement



In this Aug. 4, 2012, file photo, United States' Michael Phelps swims in the men's 4 X 100-meter medley relay at the Aquatics Centre in the Olympic Park during the 2012 Summer Olympics in London.

Associated Press

BETH HARRIS AP Sports Writer

Michael Phelps is coming out of retirement, the first step toward possibly swimming at the 2016 Rio Olympics

The 22-time Olympic medalist will compete for the first time since the 2012 London Games at a meet in Mesa, Ariz., on April 24-26. Bob Bowman, the swimmer's longtime coach, told The Associated Press on Monday that Phelps is entered in three events the 50- and 100-meter freestyles and the 100 butterfly. "I think he's just going to test the waters a little bit and see how it goes," Bowman said by phone from Baltimore. "I wouldn't say it's a full-fledged comeback."

Phelps returned to training last fall and re-entered the U.S. drug-testing program. He has completed his sixmonth waiting period by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency to be eligible for competition.

Bowman said Phelps is "pretty far" from being back in top form. He's been training Monday through Friday with Bowman's team at the North Baltimore Aquatic Club.

"He's gotten back into good shape since September," the coach said. "He can give a good effort and certainly not be embarrassed. He's in enough shape to swim competitively."

Besides Phelps, USA Swimming said Olympians Ryan Lochte and Katie Ledecky are among those expected to swim in the Arena Grand Prix at Skyline Aquatic Center. Phelps turns 29 in June and is the winningest and most decorated athlete in Olympic history. He captured 18 gold medals and 22 medals overall at the last three Summer Games. He broke Mark Spitz's record for a single Olympics by winning eight gold medals at Beijing in 2008.

Phelps had vowed that he wouldn't swim into his 30s. Since retiring less than two years ago, he has stayed busy with a chain of swim schools, a foundation focused on water safety and appearances on behalf of his sponsors. He devoted lots of time to golf and participated in a reality show with famed coach Hank

His camp is being low-key about the comeback.

"I think he's just really enjoying it," Bowman said. "He enjoys the training and being physically fit. He just kind of wants to see where he's at. It's more really for fun. It's been nice for me to see him swim just for the joy of it really."

In Mesa, Phelps will swim 100 free and 100 fly preliminaries on the first day. Then, if he qualifies, he'll decide which race to swim for the evening finals, Bowman said. He'll swim the 50 free on the second day and might swim the 50 fly "just for fun," the coach added. Phelps will stick to the shorter races and some relays rather than the grueling individual medleys he swam during the height of his career. "He's really doing this because he wants to there's no outside pressure at all," Bowman said.

Olympian Jessica Hardy, who will compete in Mesa, said many swimmers were surprised by news of Phelps' comeback.

"He kept it pretty much under wraps," she told the AP. "Even if he's not at peak performance, it's great for the sport and each athlete particularly to keep learning from him. I don't think anyone wants to put pressure on him. He's accomplished everything you pretty much can. It's just great to see what else you can do."Phelps has already entered the remaining Grand Prix meets in Charlotte, North Carolina, in May and Santa Clara, California, in June, although Bowman said no decision has been made on whether he will compete.



Brodeur wins what might be final start for Devils

The Associated Press NEWARK, New Jersey (AP)

- Martin Brodeur made 16 saves in what might have been his last start in a 20year career with the Devils, and New Jersey beat Boston 3-2 on Sunday as the Bruins rested many of their stars in preparation for the playoffs.

The soon-to-be 42-year-old Brodeur is in the final year of his contract and is likely to test the free-agent market now that he has become the backup to Cory Schneider.

Defenseman Marek Zidlicky scored twice and Travis Zajac had a goal for the Devils, who have now missed the playoffs two straight seasons after making the Stanley Cup finals in 2012.

Loui Eriksson scored for Boston, which rested eight starters, including Zdeno Chara and No. 1 goalie Tuukka Rask. New Jersey's Jaromir Jagr had two assists, giving him 1,050 and moving him past Gordie Howe for eighth on the NHL career list. The Devils announced during the game that coach Pete DeBoer will return next season.

LIGHTNING 1, CAPITALS 0,

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tampa Bay wrapped up homeice advantage for its firstround playoff series against Montreal by edging Washington in a shootout in the



Detroit Red Wings' Jakub Kindl, left, of the Czech Republic, and St. Louis Blues' Dmitrij Jaskin, of Russia, chase a loose puck during the second period of an NHL hockey game Sunday, April 13,

regular-season finale.

Matthew Carle scored the only goal in the tiebreaker. The victory clinched second place in the At-Bay, which finished with 101 points, one more than Montreal.

Tampa Bay will host Montreal in Game 1 on Wednesday night.

Alex Ovechkin finished with an NHL-leading 51 goals, but the Capitals failed to make the playoffs for the first time since 2006-07, his second season in the league.

Ovechkin's betweenthe-legs attempt in the

shootout was stopped by goalie Anders Lindback, who also prevented Nicklas Backstrom and Evgeny Kuznetsov from scoring. It lantic Division for Tampa was Lindback's third career shutout, first this season.

> The shootout was Washington's NHL-record 21st of the season. The Capitals were 10-11 in those games.

RED WINGS 3, BLUES 0

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Detroit backup goalie Petr Mrazek kept injury-riddled St. Louis down heading into the playoffs with his second career shutout. The Blues had been in contention for the No. 1 overall seed but lost their last six and missed a chance at taking the Central Division. Without three of their top five scorers, their top faceoff man and two top defensemen, the Blues were shut out for the second straight game and third time during the slump. Justin Abdelkader scored twice, Riley Sheahan added a goal, and Pavel Datsyuk had two assists for the Red Wings, who earned the second wild-card spot in the Eastern Conference and will face Boston in the first round of the playoffs.

HURRICANES 6, FLYERS 5, SO PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Eric Staal scored twice in regulation and had the only

goal in the shootout to lead Carolina over Philadelphia in the regular-season finale.

Jeff Skinner added a pair of goals for the Hurricanes, who finished seventh in the Metropolitan Division and outside of the playoff picture. Wayne Simmonds scored twice for the Flyers. who had already wrapped up third place in the Metropolitan. Philadelphia will face the New York Rangers in the first round of the playoffs. Cal Heeter made 33 saves in his NHL debut for the Flyers, before stopping one of two shots in the shootout. Anton Khudobin made 39 saves and stopped all three of shots in the shootout for the Carolina.

ISLANDERS 4, SABRES 3, SO BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Brock Nelson scored with 3:44 left in regulation to force overtime and then netted the decisive shootout goal to lift the New York Islanders to a win over Buffalo in a season-ending matchup of non-playoff teams.

Anders Lee scored twice for the Islanders (34-37-11), who finished with three straight wins. Anders Nilsson stopped 36 shots through overtime and all three he faced in the shootout. Nilsson clinched the victory by using his glove to sweep away a puck that got away from Ville Leino as he drove to the net.



Gene Haas, the founder of Haas Automation, answers a question during a news conference about forming a Formula One auto racing team in Concord, N.C., Monday, April 14, 2014. **Associated Press**

Haas plans to field F1 team in next 2 years

STEVE REED AP Sports Writer CONCORD, North Caro**lina (AP)** — NASCAR team owner Gene Haas is out to based team can succeed based Formula One team Haas said. in the Formula One racing

"I think we can beat the Europeans at their own game," Haas said Monday at a news conference.

Haas said he plans to field a team "Haas Formula" either in 2015 or 2016, de-

pending on how long it takes to find an engine supplier and get things up and running.

Haas Formula would besince Parnelli Jones Racing in 1974-76, which employed Mario Andretti as its driver.

The FIA granted entry to the American-based USF1 team in 2009 but it was a major failure and never hit the grid in part of because

of a lack of financial backing. As a result, there is plenty of skepticism when it comes to Haas' foray into the Formula One world. prove that an American- come the first American- "It's extremely hard to do,"

> "I wouldn't be doing it if I thought I was going to fail. But that's the challenge - proving other people wrong."

> Haas said he expects the venture into Formula One racing to cost billions of dollars.



nuba 100/1

NL Capsules

Brewers keep on winning, beat Pirates 4-1

The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — The Milwaukee Brewers won their ninth in a row, with Kyle Lohse coming within one out of a complete game Sunday in a 4-1 win over the Pittsburgh Pirates.

At 10-2, the Brewers are off to their best start since going 13-0 to start the 1987 season. This is Milwaukee's longest winning streak since a nine-game string last April.

Lohse (2-1) gave up four hits and struck out nine in 8 2-3 innings. He fanned five straight in the seventh and eighth innings.

Lohse was pulled with two outs in the ninth after aiving up a single to Andrew McCutchen. Will Smith struck out Pedro Alvarez on three pitches to record his first career save.

Charlie Morton (0-1)pitched seven innings as the Pirates lost for the fourth time in five games.

GIANTS 5, ROCKIES 4 SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Brandon Crawford led off the 10th inning with a splash homer to lift the San Francisco Giants over the Colorado Rockies.

Pablo Sandoval homered and Angel Pagan drove in two runs for the Giants.

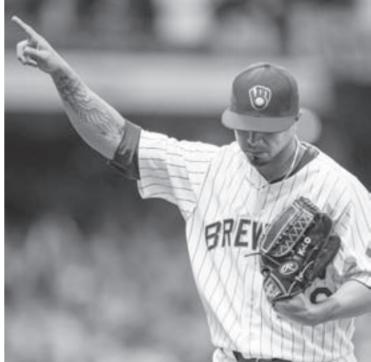
Wilin Rosario and Justin Morneau homered for the Rockies, who have lost 15 of their last 18 games in San Francisco.

Crawford turned on the second pitch thrown by Rex Brothers (1-1) and drove it into McCovey Cove for his first career walkoff homer and first splash homer.

Sergio Romo (1-0) pitched a scoreless 10th for the win. DODGERS 8, DIAMOND-BACKS 6

PHOENIX (AP) — Adrian Gonzalez homered for the fourth consecutive game and the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Arizona Diamondbacks for a threegame sweep.

Gonzalez's three-run shot off Trevor Cahill (0-4) in the third inning gave him 10 RBIs in the series. Matt Kemp and Juan Uribe also homered for the Dodgers.



pitching against the Pittsburgh Pirates, Sunday, April 13, 2014, in Milwaukee. **Associated Press**

AL Capsules

Continued from Page 17

With runners at the corners and one out, the Red Sox thought they turned an inning-ending double play Francisco Cervelli's grounder. First base umpire Davidson called Bob Cervelli out on a bang-bang play, and Cervelli grabbed his right hamstring as he tumbled to the ground.

Yankees manager Joe Girardi challenged the call, which was overturned after a 3-minute replay review. That gave New York another run and a 3-1 lead.

Farrell, surely still bothered by a replay review that curiously went against Boston the day before, pointed to his eyes as he argued with two umpires. He was quickly ejected by Davidson.

ATHLETICS 3, MARINERS 0 SEATTLE (AP) — Yoenis

Cespedes hit a two-run homer that broke a scoreless tie in the eighth inning, lifting Oakland over Seattle.

Cespedes pulled a 2-2 slider from Charlie Furbush (0-1) into the left field bullpen. Cespedes' second homer of the season came after Jed Lowrie drew a leadoff walk. Josh Donaldson added a solo home run in the ninth, his third, off Lucas Luetge.

A's starter Scott Kazmir pitched two-hit ball for six innings, striking out nine without a walk.

Dan Otero (2-0) retired two batters in the seventh. Luke Gregerson worked the eighth and Sean Doolittle allowed one hit in the ninth for his first save.

Chris Young made his first start since Sept. 9, 2012, while with the New York Mets. Young pitched six shutout innings, giving up four hits. He walked three and struck out two.

RANGERS 1, ASTROS 0 ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) —

Martin Perez threw eight scoreless innings, Donnie Murphy had a sacrifice fly and the Rangers got a series-clinching victory over the Astros.

Perez (2-0) scattered five hits and walked three, but the left-hander benefited from four double-play grounders. He struck out two.

Murphy's deep flyball to the left-center gap in the sixth sent home Josh Wilson for the lone run of the game against Brett Oberholtzer (0-3).

Alexi Ogando worked a perfect ninth to convert his first save chance.

BLUE JAYS 11, ORIOLES 3 BALTIMORE (AP) — Mark Buehrle allowed one run over seven innings to win his third straight start, and the Blue Jays hit three home runs and had a season-high 17 hits in an victory over the Orioles.

Jose Bautista hit a three-run drive and Colby Rasmus and Brett Lawrie had solo shots to help Toronto win the decisive matchup of the three-game series.

Rasmus, Edwin Encarnacion

and Adam Lind each collected three hits for the Blue Jays, who enjoyed their highest scoring game of the year at the expense of Ubaldo Jimenez (0-3) and three Baltimore relievers.

Buehrle (3-0) gave up five hits, walked none and struck out two.

Chris Davis hit his first homer of the season for Baltimore. TWINS 4, ROYALS 3

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Pitcher Wade Davis made a wild flip home on a comebacker in the eighth inning and the Twins rallied past the City Royals for a three-game sweep.

A madcap sequence put the Twins ahead and a crazy play ended it, too.

With two outs and none on in the ninth, Mike Moustakas popped a ball straight up. As he stood to watch it in the batter's box, catcher Kurt Suzuki tripped over him, resulting in an interference call for the final out.

After the Royals scored three times in the eighth for a 3-2 lead, reliever Aaron Crow (0-1) walked two Minnesota batters to start the bottom

Davis struck out Joe Mauer, but Trevor Plouffe walked to load the bases. Chris Herrmann then hit a tapper back to the mound and Davis' toss sailed past catcher Salvador Perez. Pedro Florimon scored the tying run and Brian Dozier slid home under Perez's return throw to Davis covering the

Dan Haren (2-0) allowed three runs in 5 2-3 innings. Kenley Jansen pitched a perfect ninth for his fourth

Mark Trumbo hit a threerun homer and Eric Chavez had a solo shot for the Diamondbacks.

Dee Gordon stole a career-best four bases for the Dodgers.

BRAVES 10, NATIONALS 2 ATLANTA (AP) — Justin Upton and Freddie Freeman each hit two-run homers off Gio Gonzalez and the Atlanta Braves completed a three-game sweep of the Washington Nationals. The Braves have won five of six against the Nationals this year.

Washington began the day by placing third baseman Ryan Zimmerman on the 15-day disabled list with a broken right thumb. Aaron Harang (2-1) allowed one run in six innings. Gonzalez gave up six runs, nine hits and four walks in six innings.

CARDINALS 6, CUBS 4 ST. LOUIS (AP) — Matt Carpenter drove in three runs, leading Michael Wacha and the St. Louis Cardinals over the Chicago Cubs.

Carpenter hit a two-run single in the second inning and added a sacrifice fly in the fourth that put St. Louis ahead to stay at 4-3.

Wacha (2-0) allowed three runs and five hits in 6 1-3 innings. Anthony Rizzo hit a two-run homer in the first. Trevor Rosenthal gave up a run in the ninth, but retired Luis Valbuena and Emilio Bonifacio with the tying runs on base to pick up his fourth save in as many opportunities.

Edwin Jackson (0-1) allowed four runs in six innings.

PHILLIES 4, CUBS 3 PHILADELPHIA (AP) Chase Utley extended his fast start with the tiebreaking homer among three hits, and the Philadelphia Phillies finished off a threegame sweep of the Miami Marlins.

The Marlins lost their seventh in a row.

Utley raised his average to .500 through 10 games, with six doubles, three home runs and 10 RBIs. The five-time All-Star, who missed two games with the flu, has a hit in each of his games this season.

Utley broke a 3-all tie with two outs in the eighth by homering off Mike Dunn (0-1).

A.J. Bastardo (1-1) pitched a scoreless eighth for the win. Jonathan Papelbon got his third save.

PADRES 5, TIGERS 1

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Tyson Ross outdueled AL Cy Young Award winner Max Scherzer, and Jedd Gyorko and Xavier Nady homered as the San Diego Padres beat the Detroit Tigers to take two of three.

After two shaky opening starts, Ross (1-2) struck out seven and held the Tigers to one run and six hits in seven innings. He also hit an RBI single.







Indiana Pacers center Ian Mahinmi (28) gets a basket on a dunk in front of Oklahoma City Thunder forward Nick Collison in the second half of an NBA basketball game in Indianapolis, Sunday, April 13, 2014. The Pacers defeated the Thunder 102-97.

Associated Press

The Associated Press INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Da-

vid West scored 21 points and Lance Stephenson had his league-best fifth triple-double of the season. leading Indiana past Oklahoma City 102-97 Sunday — putting the Pacers one win away from clinching the Eastern Conference's top seed.

The Pacers (55-26) lead two-time defending champion Miami by a half game with one to play and hold RAPTORS 116, PISTONS 107

the tiebreaker based on conference record.

Kevin Durant finished with 38 points for Oklahoma City (58-22) on a day it could have locked up the second seed in the West. Oklahoma City rallied from a 10-point fourth-quarter deficit, tying the score at 89 with 2:46 to go. But Paul George hit a 3 and Stephenson made one with 34.2 seconds to go to make it 97-91.

Pacers win, close in on top seed in East playoffs

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP) DeMar DeRozan scored 14 of his 30 points in the fourth quarter, and Toronto tied a franchise record for victories with a win over Detroit.

The Raptors (47-33) had already clinched the Atlantic Division, and the victory over Detroit was their 10th in 14 games. Toronto has reached the 47-win mark for the third time. The Raptors went 47-35 in 2001 and 2007.

Kyle Lowry scored 28 points for Toronto before fouling out with 5:51 remaining.

Andre Drummond had 14 points and 17 rebounds for the Pistons in the final home game of their dismal season. Detroit's Josh Smith missed a fourth straight game with tendinitis in his left knee.

GRIZZLIES 102, LAKERS 90 LOS ANGELES (AP) — Mike Conley scored 24 points and Memphis pulled away in the third quarter to beat Los Angeles, moving the Grizzlies a game ahead of idle Phoenix in the race for the final Western Conference playoff berth.

Marc Gasol added 18 points and 15 rebounds and Mike Miller had 13 points for the Grizzlies, who head to Phoenix for a showdown with the Suns on Monday night. Gaafter the game; Pau has been out for the Lakers with vertigo.

Jodie Meeks led the Lakers with 20 points in their last home game of a miserable season that has included a franchise-worst 55 losses with two games remaining. They lost their seventh in a row overall and fifth straight at Staples Center. Wesley Johnson added 15 points and 15 rebounds, and Jordan Hill added a doubledouble of 10 points and 10 rebounds.

TRAIL BLAZERS 119, WAR-RIORS 117, OT

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — La-Marcus Aldridge scored 26 points, including the goahead jumper in overtime, and Portland defeated the Warriors despite a seasonhigh 47 points from Golden State's Stephen Curry.

Aldridge's jumper with 39.9 seconds to go gave the Blazers a 118-117 lead. Damian Lillard added a free throw for Portland before Andre Iguodala missed a 3-pointer with 2.9 seconds left and Wesley Matthews grabbed the rebound for the Blazers.

Matthews added 24 points for Portland, which has won four straight and eight of its past nine games.

Both teams are jockeying for final position in the Western Conference. Portland is in fifth place behind Houston and Golden State sits behind the Blazers in sixth.

With the victory, Portland (53-28) was assured of at least the fifth seed in the playoffs. The Blazers close out the season Wednesday against the Clippers.

The Warriors (49-31) missed out on reaching 50 wins for the first time since 1993-94, but they have two games to go in the regular season. KINGS 106, TIMBERWOLVES 103

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) Ray McCallum hit backto-back 3-pointers in a pivotal stretch midway through the fourth quarter, DeMarcus Cousins had 35 points and 15 rebounds,

sol hugged his brother Pau and Sacramento beat Minnesota.

> The Kings trailed by 11 in the third quarter and were down 82-81 before going on an 11-2 run to ao in front for good. Cousins, who had his eighth straight doubledouble, started the surge with a thunderous dunk and McCallum followed with his 3s, one from the left corner and the other from the right.

> Cousins was hit with a technical foul with less than 2 minutes remaining, his 16th of the season. By NBA rules, he must sit out Sacramento's final regular season game.Kevin Love had 43 points and 11 rebounds for Minnesota after sitting out Friday's 112-110 win over Houston because of a hyperextended right elbow. NETS 97, MAGIC 88

> NEW YORK (AP) — Mirza Teletovic scored a teamhigh 20 points and Joe Johnson and Mason Plumlee each added 17 and Brooklyn beat Orlando.

> Deron Williams had 16 points, five assists and four steals for the Nets, who have a two-game lead for the fifth spot in the Eastern Conference playoff race over the idle Washington Wizards. Tobias Harris scored 18 points for the Magic, who have lost their past two games.

> Trailing 59-55 with 6:59 remaining in the third quarter, Brooklyn went on a 15-0 run, highlighted by five points from Teletovic, to take a 70-59 lead with 3:23 left in the quarter before Ronnie Price then hit a 3-pointer to end the run.

KNICKS 100, BULLS 89

NEW YORK (AP) — Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 20 points and New York, a night after being eliminated from playoff contention, beat Chicago. No longer with any hopes of their own, the Knicks snapped the Bulls' seven-game winning streak and dropped them back into a tie with Toronto for the No. 3 seed in the Eastern Conference with two to play.

Warriors' Bogut out indefinitely with rib fracture

OAKLAND, California (AP) Golden State Warriors center Andrew Bogut of Australia has a fractured rib that could keep him out for the start of the playoffs.

Warriors coach Mark Jackson said Monday night that an X-ray revealed the fractured rib. Jackson said Bogut is out "indefinitely" and there is no timetable for his return. Bogut left Sunday's overtime loss at Portland in the fourth quarter with the injury. Backup center Jermaine O'Neal was starting in Bogut's place Monday night against Minnesota.



Los Angeles Lakers guard Jodie Meeks, right, has his shot blocked by Golden State Warriors center Andrew Bogut, of Australia, during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Friday, April 11, 2014, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press



Uber meets local lookalikes in Asia taxi-app wars

KAY JOHNSON AP Business Writer

MUMBAI, India (AP) — Riding on its startup success and flush with fresh capital, taxi-hailing smartphone app Uber is making a big push into Asia. There's a twist, though: Instead of being the game-changing phenomena it was in the U.S., Uber faces a slew of competitors using similar technology.

The concept Uber helped pioneer just four years ago has transformed some markets before it even had a chance to enter them. Homegrown taxi apps are already slogging it out for dominance in numerous Asian countries.

China has a taxi-hailina app called Kuadi that says it logs more than 6 million transactions per day. Malaysia-based GrabTaxi operates in five Southeast Asian countries and recently announced more than \$10 million in new investment. India has two competing taxi-app companies, Meru Cabs and Ola Cabs. The proliferation of taxi apps means that Uber, which raised \$258 million in venture capital last year, much of it from Google Ventures, must distinguish itself from local companies as well as international challengers including Easy Taxi and Lyft. This month, Lyft got a \$250 million cash infusion from investors including Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba. "We have to build our brand up from scratch in a lot of these places," said Sam Gellman, who is heading Uber's Asian expansion. To compete against local lookalikes, Uber said it is taking a two-prong strategy. First, partner with local players who can tailor their business to demand, whether for fast no-frills rides or luxury cars on call. Second, target Asia's upwardly mobile business travelers who will appreciate having one service they can use in dozens of cities worldwide.

The company has in the last year started operating in 18 cities in Asia, Australia and New Zealand includ-



ing Seoul, Shanghai, Bangkok, Hong Kong and five Indian cities.

Uber uses a free GPS-enabled app for customers to use their phones to summon rides, usually from a private car company instead of an ordinary licensed cab and promising a quicker response time that is often within 10 minutes. Drivers respond using their own Uber-provided smartphones mounted on the dashboard and follow the map to an exact loca-

In the U.S. and Europe, Uber has variously drawn acclaim by urban customers tired of difficulty finding cabs and protests by taxi companies accusing it of running unlicensed taxi services. Just last month, an organization representing Seattle-area taxi drivers sued

in "unlawful and deceptive business practices."

Legal woes, though, are less of a problem in Asia than lookalike local competitors. The business models of Asian rivals vary: some run their own fleets, others depend on advertising, while Uber makes commissions on fares, but all employ distinctly Uber-like smartphone apps.

China's Kuaidi says its app is used 6.2 million times a day and makes 10 million yuan (\$1.6 million) in revenue each month through advertising by linking customers to regular taxis.

Cai Jing, 29, a Shanghaibased purchaser for a food company, uses Chinese taxi apps a few times a week.

"They're way more effective at getting me a taxi than just waiting on Uber, alleging it is involved the street," said Cai, who leaving passengers suffer-

hadn't heard of Uber.

One market Uber sees huge potential in particular is India, with its vast population of 1.2 billion. In the last year, Uber has launched in Mumbai, Bangalore, New Delhi, Chennai and Hyderabad. That's more cities than in any other country except the United States.

Uber India's Jambu Palaniappan said the market is one of the fastest-growing he has seen. The company declined to give specific figures.

One reason for rapid growth in India is pentup demand. In Mumbai, for instance, its distinctive black-and-yellow licensed cabs number just 42,000, inadequate for a city of 22 million. Plus, most licensed taxis are banned from having air conditioning under an archaic municipal rule,

ing with rolled-down windows in suffocating heat and noxious pollution. The city does allow air-conditioned "radio taxis," but getting one can take an hour or more.

Newly minted Uber driver Dinish Karamsesula, whose employer partnered with the company in Mumbai, said he's busier since getting the smartphone mounted on his black SUV, usually only rented out by the day. He now makes several short trips a day.

"I'm on salary so I don't get the profits," he said. "But sometimes the customers are so happy with the car being cool and clean, they give me tips," he said, driving past weaving motorbikes, ancient Premier Padmini cabs, the occasional wandering cow and a bicycle loaded with sacks of

Google buys drone maker Titan Aerospace

space, a maker of solarpowered drones, saying it could help bring Internet access to remote parts of the world as well as solve other problems.

Financial terms were not disclosed. Google Inc. said Monday that atmospheric

ing environmental damage. Titan's atmospheric satellites, which are still in development and not yet commercially available, can stay in the air for as long as five years, according to reports. Before it was updated Monday to re-

NEW YORK (AP) — Google satellites could also be used flect the acquisition, Titan's solar drone company Ashas bought Titan Aero- in disaster relief and assess- website cited a wide range centa instead. of uses for the drones, including atmospheric and weather monitoring, disaster response and voice and data communications.

> Facebook Inc. was also in talks to buy New Mexicobased Titan earlier this year, but it acquired U.K.-based

Both Google and Facebook have launched ambitious projects that aim to get everyone on the planet online. Google's Project Loon sends giant balloons bearing Internetbeaming antennas into the stratosphere.

Aruba TODAY

Stocks recover ground on retail sales

ALEX VEIGA AP Business Writer

U.S. stocks mounted a modest rally on Monday, helping investors recover some of the ground lost after a rough finish last week. Investors were bracing for another round of discouraging earnings and a third consecutive loss for the stock market. But the market pushed higher from the get-go Monday, receiving a boost from solid earnings from Citigroup and a strong pickup in retail sales last month.

Among the stocks that rose sharply were WebMD, Ed-

Citigroup helped stoke the rally. The bank reported a 2.5 percent jump in first-quarter profit as both income and revenue beat Wall Street's expectations. That was a welcome surprise following an earnings miss last week by JPMorgan Chase. A positive earnings outlook from health information portal WebMd also helped.

The gains faded somewhat late in the afternoon. The Nasdaq composite slipped briefly into negative territory, harking back to last week's sharp drop in Internet and biotechnology

Monday's rally was a positive start for the market in a week that promises to provide investors with plenty of insight into the health of Corporate America and the U.S. consumer.

"For the rest of the week I would actually expect a little bit of volatility," said Kinahan. "You have some big names coming out this week that will really set the trend of not only the U.S. but what's going on worldwide."

Investors will hear from several members of the Federal Reserve, including Fed Chair Janet Yellen.



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. U.S. stocks mounted a modest rally on Monday, helping investors recover some of the ground lost after a rough finish last week.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

wards Lifesciences and Goodrich Petroleum.

Stocks rose after the Commerce Department reported that retail sales increased 1.1 percent in March, the best gain since September 2012. The government also revised February's figure to a 0.7 percent gain, more than double its previous estimate.

Sales improved particularly in the second half of March, as unusually cold weather that gripped much of the country this winter began to ease, motivating more people to go out and spend money.

"As we look forward, the consumer may continue to (spend) and may continue to drive the economy overall," said J.J. Kinahan, chief strategist with TD Ameritrade.

stocks.

A wave of buying in the last half-hour of trading pushed the Nasdaq and other indexes to solid gains for the day. It was the market's first finish in the green since April 9.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index gained 14.92 points, or 0.8 percent, to close at 1,830.61. All ten industry sectors in the S&P 500 increased, led by energy stocks, which rose 1.3 percent. The Dow Jones industrial average added 146.49 points, or 0.9 percent, to 16,173.24. The Nasdaq composite rose 22.96 points, or 0.6 percent, to 4,022.69.

While they recovered some of their losses from last week, all three indexes remain down for the month and the year.

Among the major companies due to report earnings this week are Johnson & Johnson, Google, General Electric and UnitedHealth. Analysts still expect first-quarter earnings for companies in the Standard & Poor's 500 to decline 1.6 percent from a year earlier, according to FactSet, a financial data provider. If profits do fall, it would be only the second quarterly drop in three years.

"The expectations have been set so low that there are upside surprises out there," said Randy Frederick, managing director of trading at Schwab Center for Financial Research. "If they are big enough stocks and they're a big component of an index then they may well push that index up shortly.



A Citibank logo is shown in the window of one of the bank's offices in New York. Citigroup reported Monday, April 14, 2014, that first-quarter earnings rose, helped by declines in expenses and provisions for bad loans.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

Citigroup 1Q earnings edge higher

STEVE ROTHWELL AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Citigroup's first-quarter earnings rose, helped by declines in expenses and provisions for bad loans. The earnings improved even as revenue from mortgage refinancing and bond trading fell.

EARNINGS: Citigroup reported a profit of \$4.1 billion in the first quarter, after stripping out the effects of an accounting change and a tax item. That was up 2.5 percent from the same period a year earlier, when it made \$4 billion.

EXPECTATIONS EXCEEDED: On a per-share basis, the earnings amounted to \$1.30 compared with \$1.29 a year earlier. That was better than estimates of analysts polled by FactSet, who were expecting \$1.14 per share.

LOWER REVENUE: Revenue was \$20.1 billion. That was down 2 percent from the same period last year when the bank generated revenue of \$20.6 billion. Analysts had forecast revenue of \$19.5 billion.

'BAD BANK' BETTER: Citi got a boost from improving results in its Citi Holdings unit, which is selling off assets such as mortgages that soured in the financial crisis. Losses at Citi Holdings fell to \$284 million from \$804 million in the same period a vear earlier. The bank also benefited from a small drop in expenses. Citi Chief Financial Officer John Gerspach said on a call with reporters that the bank wants to reduce the losses to "as close to zero as possible" by 2015.

SOUTH OF THE BORDER: Citi

also revealed more fraud at its Mexican unit. The bank reduced its 2013 earnings by \$235 million in February, saying it was a victim of fraud committed by a Mexican oil services company which secured hundreds of millions of dollars in short-term loans. The company, Oceanografia S.A. de C.V., or OSA, overstated by \$400 million the business it was doing with Mexico's state-owned oil company Petróleos Mexicanos, or Pemex.

Citi's Gerspach said the bank's Mexican unit uncovered another fraud of under \$30 million in dealing with another supplier, which Citi did not name. Gerspach said that the supplier had already started to return the funds and that Citi expected to get all of its money back.

STOCK REACTION: Citi's stock rose \$1.37, or 3 percent, to \$47.07 in morning trading, paring the bank's loss for the year to 9 percent.

MORTAGE WEAKNESS: Citi's global consumer banking revenue fell 5 percent to \$9.3 billion from a year ago, driven by "significantly lower" mortgage refinancing in the U.S. The increase in bond yields since last summer has caused mortgage rates to rise, which in turn has slowed refinancing of home loans.

STOCK REACTION: Citi's stock rose \$1.99, or 4.4 percent, to close at \$47.67.

JOB CUTS: Citigroup's consumer banking unit, which operates in 36 different countries, plans to shutter branches and cut jobs to further reduce expenses.



US businesses increased stockpiles 0.4 percent

MARTIN CRUTSINGER **AP Economics Writer WASHINGTON (AP)** — U.S.businesses boosted their stockpiles in February as sales rebounded by the largest amount in nine months.

Stockpiles increased 0.4 percent in February following a similar 0.4 percent increase in January, the Commerce Department reported Monday. Sales rose 0.8 percent in February, bouncing back after a 1.1 percent sales decline in January that was blamed on the harsh weather that month. It was the biggest one-month sales gain since last May. A separate report showed a surge in sales at the retail level in March, providing support to the view that stronger consumer spending in coming months will encourage businesses to restock their shelves and provide a boost to the economy.

While the economy slowed the January-March quarter, many economists are looking for a strong rebound in the current quarter. The report on business inventories covers all kinds of stockpiles, including manufacturing, wholesaling and retailing.

Inventories held by manufacturers rose the most in February, a gain of 0.7 percent, while inventories at the wholesale level were up 0.5 percent. Stockpiles held by retailers were unchanged in February.

Many analysts believe that the economy, which grew at a 2.6 percent rate in the October-December quarter, slowed in the JanuaryMarch period, to somewhere between 1 percent and 2 percent growth.

That forecast is based on a view that the harsh winter weather cut into various types of economic activity, from shopping at the mall to factory production. Some believe that adverse weather cut growth by about 1 percentage point in the first quarter, but will add 1 percentage point to activity in the April-June quarter as the economy is spurred by pent-up demand in such areas as

auto sales. Another factor that affected first-quarter growth is a slowdown in the pace of restocking following a huge surge last summer. Inventory building contributed 1.6 percentage points to economic growth in the third quarter when the economy had grown at a 4.1 percent rate. By the fourth quarter, that contribution had dwindled to just 0.03 percentage points. Analysts are not looking for inventories to add much to first quarter growth.

Chinese pork giant plans IPO to raise up to \$5.3B

KELVIN CHAN AP Business Writer

HONG KONG (AP) — China's WH Group, which became the world's biggest pork company after buying Smithfield Foods of the U.S. last year, said Monday it plans to raise up to \$5.3 billion in an initial public offering on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

Most of the money will be used to pay off the debt used to buy Smithfield. The acquisition turned the Chinese company into a global butcher with the ability to source cheaper hogs from the U.S. to better supply rapidly growing demand for pork in China, the world's second largest economy.

"WH Group's listing on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange is in line with our stature as the world's largest pork company, with an increasingly global reach," CEO Wan Long said in a statement.

China is expected to account for four-fifths of the growth in global pork consumption in the next five years, according to a Frost & Sullivan research report company commiswhile, is leveling off.

The company bought Smithfield Foods Inc., the largest U.S. pork company, less than a year ago for

International Holdings after acquiring Smithfield, is the dominant pork producer in

China, which accounted for more than half of the

Employees work on production lines at a pork processing plant owned by Henan Shuanghui Group Ltd., in Luohe, in central China's Henan province. WH Group, which changed its name from Shuanghui International Holdings, became the world's biggest pork company after acquiring Smithfield. (AP Photo/Alexander F. Yuan)

sioned. Consumption in the United States and other Western markets, mean- its name from Shuanghui

\$4.7 billion in cash. WH Group, which changed

107 million metric tons of pork consumed globally in The takeover of Smithfield, which including debt was worth about \$7.1 billion, was the largest acquisition of by a Chinese company of a U.S. firm. It followed a number of high profile food safety scandals in China, including one that involved WH Group, that have made Chinese vigilant about food quality.

By purchasing Smithfield, the Chinese company taps into a source of cheap, high quality hogs for the growing China market.

In a prospectus released earlier this month it said, "We plan to import into China safe, high-quality and cost competitive fresh pork from the U.S., which we believe will positively affect turnover and margins for our China operations."

The document said hog prices from 2010 to 2012 were 40 percent lower in the U.S. than China because of cheaper feed costs and higher productivity.

Aspen Insurance rejects Endurance's \$3.2B buyout

The Associated Press

Aspen Insurance Holdings Ltd. said Monday that its board has rejected a proposal from fellow insurance company Endurance Specialty Holdings Ltd. to buy it for about \$3.2 billion.

Aspen said its board rejected the proposed deal because it is "not in the best interest" of the company or shareholders, and that Endurance "has a

mixed operating track record, new leadership, an unproven strategy and no experience with large acauisitions."

Earlier Monday, Endurance went public with its proposal to buy Aspen after being snubbed by the company for three months.

Endurance said that the rejection is a way for Aspen to deflect from the "highly attractive premium value"

the deal would bring.

"That's a lot of value to leave on the table," said Endurance CEO John Charman, in a statement. In a public letter early Monday, Endurance told Aspen's board that it is offering \$47.50 for each share of the company, a nearly 21 percent increase from Aspen's closing price of \$39.37 on Friday. For each Aspen share, shareholders can select cash, 0.8826 of an Endurance share or a combination.

"Despite our repeated atto engage in confidential and friendly discussions, Aspen's board and management have rebuffed our proposal and refused to engage with us," said Charman.

Charman said the deal could increase profits, save

costs by more than \$100 million a year and increase earnings per share for Endurance. The combined tempts since late lanuary company would have over \$5 billion in annual gross premiums written, Endurance said. In afternoon trading, Aspen shares rose \$4.25, or 11 percent, to \$43.62. Endurance shares fell \$1.06 to \$52.76. Both insurance companies are based in Bermuda.

nuba 10)

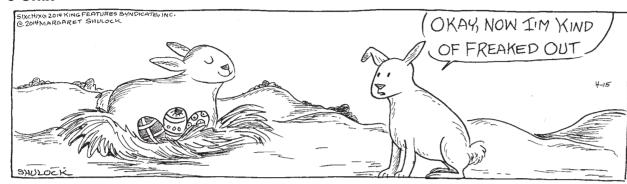
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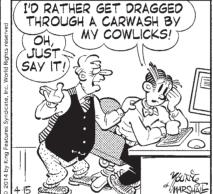


6 Chix



Blondie







Mother Goose & Grimm







Baby Blues





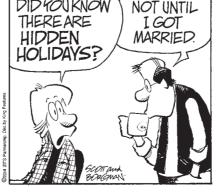


Zits









DIDYOUKNOW

Conceptis Sudoku

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Difficu	ltv. I ov	al 🔸 🛧						4/15

Difficulty Level ★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

er	9	8	6	3	5	1	2	7	4
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rday	6	3	2	1	8	5	4	9	7
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	4	6	9	5	7	8	1	2	3
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	8	5	1	2	4	3	7	6	9

ACROSS

- 1 Renown 5 Skin-numbing anesthetic 10 Gush forth
- 14 Curling _ hairstyling tool 15 Mistreat 16 Hired vehicle
- 17 South ___, Indiana 18 Systematic
- 20 Made a lap 21 Howls at the moon 22 Foe
- 23 Sounds from a contented cat 25 Cleaning cloth 26 Shakespeare's
- "Julius . 28 Topeka's state 31 Baby hooter
- 32 Treble music symbols 34 Vigor
- 36 Lion's den 37 Item in a bed linen package
- 38 Long story 39 Pass away 40 Indelible mark 41 Tales

DOWN

1 Little lies

Vermont 4 Finish

5 Actress Hedy

2 Zone 3 Capital of

6 Minds

7 Incisions

8 Bit of soot 9 Zodiac sign 10 Hurts, like a

bee prick

12 Test

11 Rate of speed

19 College officials

21 Unruly child

24 Drug addict

25 Simple float

27 Look for the

coming of

33 Luau garland

35 Prepare spuds

29 Greedy

30 Omens

32 Scorch

28 Sharp-minded

26 Nasal ailment

- 42 Earthquake aftershock 44 Louisiana division similar to a county
- 45 Tear 46 -depressive: bipolar 47 Monastery
- head 50 U.S. President Knox _
- 51 Tax-collecting agcy. 54 Marrying man
- 57 Dingbat 58 Erie or Huron 59 Fruit for cider
- 60 Trick 61 Observed 62 Make a
- smudge worse 63 "I came, __, I conquered!

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

Monday's Puzzle Solved														
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R	0	D	S		S	L	J	Ν	G		F	L	0	Ε
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44 Golfer Arnold

37 Halt 49 Two-wheeler 38 Robe for Indira 50 Vatican leader 40 Hit hard 52 Civil rights icon 41 Pull suddenly 43 Wore away 53 Murdered

46 Money, slangily 56 Record speed 47 Competent letters 48 Hee-haw 57 Day before Sat.

55 Argon or xenon



Chief:

Suspects wore GPS devices during killings

GILLIAN FLACCUS Associated Press ANAHEIM, California (AP)

— Two parolees killed at least four women while wearing GPS trackers, and

there may be more victims, a California police chief al-

leged Monday.

Franc Cano and Steven Dean Gordon, both registered sex offenders, were both wearing ankle bracelets when the women were raped and killed last fall, Anaheim police Chief Raul Quezada said at a news conference.

The discovery of one woman's body on a conveyor belt at an Anaheim trashsorting plant was the key to breaking the case, he said. Investigators were seeking the other bodies.

"They put a stop to a serial killing that would likely have continued beyond this point," District Attorney Tony Rackauckas said at

the news conference.

Quezada said authorities
were confident that there
was at least a fifth victim
and perhaps more.

The department has contacted other places with missing persons cases across the country, Anaheim police Lt. Bob Dunn said earlier.

Cano, 27, and Gordon, 45, were arrested by investigators on Saturday. Each man was charged Monday with four felony counts of special circumstances murder and four felony counts of rape.

If convicted, they could face a minimum sentence of life without parole or the death penalty. They were being held without bail and expected to be arraigned Tuesday.

Police believe the men killed the woman last October and November while on parole.

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Study: Snack might help avoid fight with spouse

SETH BORENSTEIN

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A quick candy bar may stave off more than hunger. It could prevent major fights between husbands and wives, at least if a new study that used voodoo dolls is right.

That's because low blood sugar can make spouses touchy, researchers propose.

In fact, it can make them "hangry," a combination of hungry and angry, said Ohio State University psychology researcher Brad Bushman.

"We need glucose for selfcontrol," said Bushman, lead author of the study, which was released Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. "Anger is the emotion that most people have difficulty controlling." The researchers studied 107 married couples for three weeks. Each night, they measured their levels of the blood sugar glucose and asked each participant to stick pins in a voodoo doll representing his or her spouse. That indicated levels of aggression.

The researchers found that the lower the blood sugar levels, the more pins were pushed into the doll.

In fact, people with the lowest scores pushed in twice as many pins as those with the highest blood sug-



This undated handout photo provided by Ohio State University shows an all purpose voodoo doll.

ar levels, the researchers

The study also found that

the spouses were general-

ly not angry at each other.

About 70 percent of the

said.

Associated Press

ington. The average for the whole study was a bit more than one pin a night per person.

Three people put all 51 pins in at one time — and one person did that twice — Pond said.

He said there's a good physical reason to link eating to behavior: The brain, which is only 2 percent of the body weight, consumes 20 percent of our calories.

Bushman said eating a candy bar might be a good idea if spouses are about to discuss something touchy, but that fruits and vegetables as a better long-term strategy for keeping blood sugar levels up.

Outside experts gave the study, funded by the National Science Foundation, mixed reviews.

Chris Beedie, who teaches psychology at the Aberystwyth University in Britain, said he thought the study's method was flawed and that his own work disagrees with Bushman's conclu-

sions. The better way to test Bushman's concept is to give people high glucose on some occasions and low glucose on others, and see if that makes a difference in actual acts of aggression, he said.

But Julie Schumacher, who studies psychology and domestic violence at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, called the study well-designed and said it is reasonable to conclude, as the study did, that "low glucose levels might be one factor that contributes to intimate partner violence."

Still, she and Beedie said it might be a big leap to interpret the results with voodoo dolls as indicating risk for actual physical aggression against a spouse.

The study procedure also raised another problem. Bushman had to handle a call from his credit card company, which wanted to make sure it was really he who had spent \$5,000 to buy more than 200 voodoo dolls.

Discovery to air flight off

Everest peak on May 11

time, people didn't put any pins in the doll, said study co-author Richard Pond Jr. at the University of North Carolina at Wilmore Wilmore Wilmore Wilmore Richard Pond Jr. at the University of Mount Ever-

The network plans to air "Everest Jump Live" on May 11 at 9 p.m. Eastern time, weather permitting. It will also be telecast globally.

High-altitude climber Joby Ogwyn will make the attempt.

Discovery will air a live twohour broadcast showing the California native as he battles conditions on the way to the summit of the world's tallest mountain, then takes the plunge. His custom-made wingsuit will be equipped with cameras to capture the descent of more than 10,000 vertical feet (3,048 meters) at speeds exceeding 150 mph (241 kph).

he event will be preceded by five nights of live programs from Everest covering Ogwyn's training and preparation. They begin May 5.







Aw, geez, 'Fargo' is on TV with Billy Bob Thornton

FRAZIER MOORE
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — After failed attempts and broken dreams, by golly, someone went and put "Fargo" on series TV.

The 10-episode season premieres Tuesday at 10 p.m. EDT on FX. And it mesmerizes. As a furtherance of the 1996 crime classic by Joel and Ethan Coen that starred Frances McDormand, William H. Macy and Steve Buscemi, the TV adaptation is a wonder.

Like that movie, the series is set in rural, snow-glazed Minnesota, but 20 years later (in 2006), and is stocked with new characters, deadly mischief and a bounty of stars including Allison Tolman as a brighteyed deputy and Martin Freeman as a nebbishy insurance salesman (distant echoes of the roles played by McDormand and Macy in the film).

Also on hand are Colin Hanks, Bob Odenkirk, Oliver Platt, Kate Walsh, Keith Carradine, Adam Goldberg, Keegan-Michael Key and Jordan Peele, and more.

At the core of its deliciously deranged narrative is Lorne Malvo, a sotto-voce psycho whose mysterious path brings him to the town

of Bemidji, with many repercussions.

Lorne is played by Billy Bob Thornton, who radiates still menace while sporting what he calls "a haircut gone wrong."

"This was not from a salon," Thornton explains. "It was done by a friend. But looking in the mirror, I thought, 'Wow — this dark character having bangs, which you associate with innocence, would be great.' So we decided to go with it." The man bringing "Fargo" back to life after ill-fated tries by NBC and CBS in the late 1990s is Noah Hawley, who serves as the show runner, an executive producer and the writer of all 10 episodes.

Somehow Hawley internalized the rules and deadpan tone of the Coens (who are also onboard as executive producers), then ran with their sense of twisted realism to create his own thing. "He captured the Coen Brothers' spirit, got their vibe, and yet he didn't imitate 'em," says Thornton. "I thought, if you've done that, you've done something great."

And when he encountered Lorne Malvo in Hawley's pilot script, "I don't know why, but I just went, 'Yeah.



This image released by FX shows Billy Bob Thornton as Lorne Malvo in a scene from "Fargo." The 10-episode season premieres Tuesday at 10 p.m. EDT on FX.

Associated Press

That fits: a hand in a glove.'
"I liked the idea of playing a guy who has no conscience," Thornton goes on. "He has this weird sense of humor.

He likes to mess with people. And as we went along I started thinking, he's a loner, so messing with people is actually his social life, his recreation."

This is a guy who, when threatened on his home turf by a thug twice his size, unconcernedly steps to his bathroom, drops his trousers and takes a seat. His foe, appalled, beats a hasty retreat.

"He doesn't like weakness," Thornton adds. "He has this weird curiosity about weak people. And he sees them as people he can use."

Having drawn Freeman's jammed-up pipsqueak into his lair, Lorne shares his code on being tough: "We used to be gorillas. All we

have is what we can take and defend."

Speaking with a reporter in New York last week, the 58-year-old Thornton is jauntily clad in pants with broad black-and-navy stripes, T-shirt, leather jacket, boots and knit fingerless aloves.

He is friendly, easygoing and charismatic with his soft Southern accent — like his character, a force to be reckoned with.



This book cover image released by Smithsonian Books shows "The Smithsonian Book of Air & Space Trivia", edited by Amy Pastan.

Associated Press

DOUGLASS K. DANIEL Associated Press

"The Smithsonian Book of Air & Space Trivia" (Smithsonian Books), edited by Amy Pastan

Who discovered the planet Uranus in 1781? Don't

feel bad if the name William Herschel, a British musician and telescope builder, doesn't come to mind in a snap.Only those with out-of-this-world interests could possibly score well in answering the questions

Bone up on aviation history with Smithsonian book

posed in "The Smithsonian Book of Air & Space Trivia." And such buffs would probably chafe at the suggestion that this informative little book, edited by Amy Pastan, is filled with unimportant details.

These days the excitement once generated by astronauts and spaceships is easier to find in video games and in movies like "Gravity" than in headlines and TV news. Lest we forget, this book shows us how far we have come — and suggests how far we have yet to travel.

See how well you know some of the key names in aviation history (the answers are below): 1. What daring aviator flew solo around the world in the Winnie Mae?

2. Who was the first woman to fly solo and nonstop across the Atlantic?

3. What flamboyant pilot briefly flew with a pet lion?4. Who was the first woman to fly solo around the world?

5. What was the name of the first chimp in space?

6. Which Hollywood film producer set a world speed record in 1935 and broke the record for flying a transcontinental route in 1937?

7. Who earned the nickname "Muttnik"?

8. Who was the first pilot to fly at twice the speed of sound?

9. Who was the first African-American woman to be a licensed pilot?

10. Who was the first person to dine in space as well as the first to photograph the Earth from space and was also the oldest space traveler?

The answers:

(1) Wiley Post made only 11 stops in his nearly eight-day trek in 1933.

(2) Amelia Earhart made her 15-hour flight in 1932, five years after Charles Lindbergh did it in twice the time.

(3) Roscoe Turner flew with a lion cub in 1930 while working for Gilmore Oil Co., which used a lion's head for its trademark.



Matisse's colorful cutouts go on show in London

JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A huge new Henri Matisse show in London is many things bold, colorful, exuberant. It's also a great advertisement for the creativity of old age.

The 130 works displayed at Tate Modern were created largely in the last decade of the French artist's long life, when Matisse — in a wheelchair, recovering from cancer and unable to paint as he once had used scissors and paper to create a series of big, bold and ambitious cutouts.

The work of a man in his late 70s and 80s, they burst with vitality. They include the famous blue nudes lithe-limbed female forms, cut in a single movement from blue-painted sheets of paper. The biggest works, such as the richly patterned "Large Composition with Masks" and blocky abstract "The Snail," cover whole walls of the gallery with dollops of vivid color.

"You can't walk out of here without being in a good mood," the artist's greatgranddaughter Sophie Matisse said Monday, sitting in front of "The Parakeet and the Mermaid," a multicolored burst of foliage.

These life-affirming works were created out of a sense of mortality, by an artist who had undergone major surgery for cancer in



Sophie Matisse, the great-granddaughter of Henri Matisse, stands alongside his work 'Blue Nude III 1952' at The Tate Modern in London, Monday, April 14, 2014. The artworks are part of the 'Henri Matisse: The Cut-Outs' exhibition that runs at the gallery from April 17 until Sept. 7, 2014.

Associated Press

1941. Matisse died in 1954 canvas and frame. at the age of 84.

"He was very close to the end of his life and there were more things that he wanted to do," said Sophie Matisse, a New York-based artist. "He felt that the clock was ticking, so to speak, and he didn't have a lot of time to say what he wanted or to do what he wanted." What he wanted, she said, was to create threedimensional works that leapt off the wall, driven by

cutouts to plan paintings, illustrations and large works such as tapestries and set designs. But what started out as a planning tool one he kept secret from the outside world — became an artistic medium in itself. Soon he was covering the

Matisse initially used paper

walls of his studio with bits of paper in blue, red, yellow, green, orange, white and black. He cut them into shapes— leaves, petan "almost futuristic" desire als, swirls — and into animal to transcend the limits of and human figures.

style," said curator Nicholas Cullinan. "But Matisse instead invented a new me-

Co-curated with the Museum of Modern Art in New York — where it will move in October — the show is the biggest-ever exhibition of Matisse's paper works, and is sure to be a hit. It could surpass the 2002 show "Matisse Picasso" as Tate Modern's best-selling exhibition. Works have been borrowed from museums and private collections around the world for the show, which sees the four major blue nudes displayed together in Britain for the first time. Also included are the cutout illustrations Matisse made for the book "Jazz," published in 1947. Among them is one of the artist's most famous images, "Icarus" — a black figure surrounded by stars in a blue sky. One room contains plans for the windows and walls of the chapel Matisse designed in Vence, southern France, where he lived for several years.

By setting preparatory models and film footage of Matisse in his studio alongside finished works, the exhibition reveals an artist who worked intensely until the end of his life — helped by assistants whom he sent up ladders with pincushions strapped to their wrists and hammers around their

"Most artists develop a late necks, to pin cutouts to the walls.

> In old age, Matisse drew inspiration from memories of a trip to Tahiti he had made in 1930, as well as from the bright colors of his Mediterranean home. Tate director Nicholas Serota said Matisse's bold and colorful vision helped change the course of 20th-century art. "Much of this came immediately after the war, at a time when the prevailing mood was somewhat depressed," Serota said. "And there was Matisse ... (conjuring) up these astonishing compositions with vibrant color and enormous sophistication."

> Serota said he hoped the exhibition would help visitors reassess their ideas about Matisse, who is often seen as a less challenging artist than contemporaries such as Pablo Picasso.

> "I think that they will possibly feel that a figure who is always presented as a rather conservative figure actually was much bolder, much freer," Serota said. "He's often contrasted with Picasso, who was always out there proclaiming novelty — whereas Matisse somehow achieved novelty."

> "Henri Matisse: The Cutouts" opens Thursday and runs to Sept. 7 at Tate Modern. It runs at the Museum of Modern Art in New York from Oct. 14 to Feb. 9.

Jennifer Lopez,

Laverne Cox win GLAAD Media Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jen- producer of the ABC Family couple of more trophies to her block.

The pop star and "American Idol" judge was honored Saturday night at the 25th annual GLAAD Media Awards with the Vanguard Award, which lauds efforts to increase visibility and understanding of the gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender community. In addition to being an outspoken advocate for gay rights, Lopez serves as executive

nifer Lopez has added a series "The Fosters," which centers on a lesbian couple raising their children. "The Fosters" also won the award for outstanding drama series.

> Other winners at the Beverly Hilton Hotel ceremony included NBC's soap opera "Days of Our Lives" for daily drama, Fuse's "Big Freedia: Queen of Bounce" for reality program, Tegan and Sara for music artist, and "Young Avengers" for com-

ic book. "Bridegroom" and "Call Me Kuchu" tied for the outstanding documentary trophy.

Laverne Cox, who stars in the Netflix women's prison drama "Orange is the New Black," was presented with the Stephen F. Kolzak Award, which is given to a gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender member of the entertainment community. Previous recipients include Wanda Sykes, Rufus Wainwright, Melissa Etheridge, Ellen DeGeneres and Ian McKellen.

Norman Lear, the veteran producer of such groundbreaking TV comedies as "All in the Family" and "Maude," was honored with the Pioneer Award.

The awards salute fair, accurate and inclusive representation in media of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community and the issues that affect their lives. Other winners will be announced at a New York ceremony on May 3.



Jennifer Lopez arrives at the 25th Annual GLAAD Media Awards on Saturday, April 12, 2014.

Associated Press

The Self-Sort



CHARLES M. BLOW
© 2014 New York Times

This week, four presidents journeyed to Austin, Texas, to address the Civil Rights Summit and remark on President Lyndon B. Johnson's legacy on the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Civil Rights Act.

That landmark act brought an end to legal racial segregation in public places.

But now we are facing another, worsening kind of segregation, one not codified but cultural: We are self-sorting, not only along racial lines but also along educational and income ones, particularly in our big cities.

Our cities are increasingly becoming vast outposts of homogeneity and advantage, arcing ever upward, interspersed by deserts of despair, all of which produces in them some of the highest levels of income inequality ever seen in this country.

Some call this progress; I call it a perversion, at least of the concept of diversity - of race, culture, identity and class - that dynamic engine that built urban identities and that is now being erased out of them.

As a report by Kendra Bischoff of Cornell and Sean F. Reardon of Stanford pointed out last year: "The proportion of families living in affluent neighborhoods more than doubled from 7 percent in 1970 to 15 percent in 2009.

Likewise, the proportion of families in poor neighborhoods doubled from 8 percent to 18 percent over the same period." This is consistent with a 2012 Pew Research Center report that found, "Residential segregation by income has increased during the past three decades across the United States and in 27 of the nation's 30 largest major metropolitan areas, according to a new analysis of census tract and household income

The report added, "The analysis finds that 28 percent of lower-income households in 2010 were located in a majority lower-income census tract, up from 23 percent in 1980, and that 18 percent of upper-income households were located in a majority upper-income census tract, up from 9 percent in 1900."

As Richard Florida wrote in The Atlantic last month, "The poor

face higher levels of segregation in larger, denser metros." In affluent cities, he said, "The segregation of poverty is more pronounced," adding, "The poor also face greater levels of segregation in more advanced, knowledge-based metros."

According to a study published last year in the journal Education and Urban Society, "Students are more racially segregated in schools today than they were in the late 1960s and prior to the enforcement of court-ordered desegregation in school districts across the country."

In fact, a report last month by researchers at the Civil Rights Project of the University of California, Los Angeles, found, "New York has the most segregated schools in the country." Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream about the coming together of children of different races seems, in some ways, to grow more faint.

A Reuters/Ipsos poll last year found, "About 40 percent of white Americans and about 25 percent of nonwhite Americans are surrounded exclusively by friends of their own race."

This kind of sorting has real world consequences in terms of behaviors, empathy and socialization

As The Independent of London reported last month, a new study found, "People who live in ethnically diverse streets are less racially prejudiced than individuals living in highly segregated areas and their increased tolerance is due directly to the experience of a more integrated society."

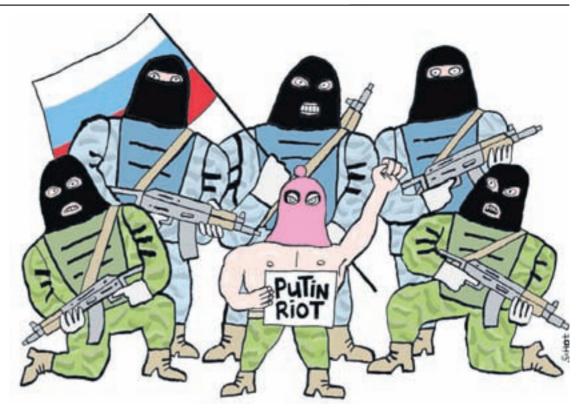
The findings, the newspaper said, "emerged from the analysis of seven previous studies on community relations carried out between 2002 and 2012 in England, Europe, the United States and South Africa, and specifically tried to rule out the idea that the results can be explained by tolerant people being more likely to live in mixed neighborhoods."

By ruling this out, the study was able to show that "even the attitudes of the most prejudiced people who did not mix at all with ethnic minorities became more tolerant over time as a result of living in areas where others were mixing on a daily basis."

We need to see people other than ourselves in order to empathize. If we don't live around others, we do ourselves and our society damage because our ability to relate becomes impaired

It's easy to demonize, or simply dismiss, people you don't know or see. It's in this context that we can keep having inane conversations about the "habits" and "culture" of the poor and "inner city" citizens.

It's nearly impossible to commiserate with the unseen and unknown. $\hfill \Box$



The Moral Power Of Curiosity



DAVID BROOKS © 2014 New York Times

Most of us have at one time or another felt ourselves in the grip of the explanatory drive. You're confronted by some puzzle, confusion or mystery. Your inability to come up with an answer gnaws at you. You're up at night, turning the problem over in your mind. Then, suddenly: clarity. The pieces click into place. There's a jolt of pure satisfaction.

We're all familiar with this drive, but I wasn't really conscious of the moral force of this longing until I read Michael Lewis' book, "Flash Boys."

As you're probably aware, this book is about how a small number of Wall Street-types figured out that the stock markets were rigged by high-frequency traders who used complex technologies to give themselves a head start on everybody else. It's nominally a book about finance, but it's really a morality tale.

The core question Lewis forces us to ask is: Why did some people do the right thing while most of their peers did not?

The answer, I think, is that most people on Wall Street are primarily motivated to make money, but a few people are primarily motivated by an intense desire to figure stuff out.

If you are primarily motivated to make money, you just need to get as much information as you need to do your job. You don't have time for deep dives into abstract matters. You certainly don't want to let people know how confused you are by something, or how shallow your knowledge is in certain areas. You want to project an image of mastery and omniscience.

On Wall Street, as in other areas of the modern economy, this attitude leads to a culture of knowingness. People learn to bluff their way through, day to day. Executives don't really understand the complex things going on in their own companies. Traders don't understand how their technological tools really work. Programmers may know their little piece of code, but they don't have a broader knowledge of what their work is being used for.

These people are content to possess information, but they don't seek knowledge. Information is what you need to make money short term. Knowledge is the deeper understanding of how things work. It's obtained only by long and inefficient study. It's gained by those who set aside the profit motive and instead possess an intrinsic desire just to know.

The heroes of Lewis' book have this intrinsic desire. The central figure, Brad Katsuyama, observes that the markets are not working the way they are supposed to. Like thousands of others, he observes that funny things are happening on his screen when he places a trading order. But, unlike those others, this puzzling discrepancy between how things are and how things are supposed to be gnaws at him. He just has to understand what's going on.

He conducts a long, arduous research project to go beneath the technology and figure things out.

At one point he and his superiors at the Royal Bank of Canada conduct a series of trades not to make money but just to test theories.

Another character, Ronan Ryan, taught himself how electronic signals move through the telecommunications system. A third, John Schwall, is an obsessive who buried himself in the library so he could understand the history of a particular form of stock-rigging called frontrunning.

These people eventually figure out what was happening in the market. They acquire knowledge both of how the markets are actually working and of how they are supposed to work. They become indignant about the discrepancy.

They could have used their knowledge to participate in the very market-rigging they were observing. But remember, the pleasure they derived from satisfying their curiosity surpassed the pleasure they derived from making money. So some of them ended up creating a separate stock exchange that could not be rigged in this way. One lesson of this tale is that capitalism doesn't really work when it relies on the profit motive alone. If everybody is just chasing material self-interest, the invisible hand won't lead to well-functioning markets.

It will just lead to arrangements in which market insiders take advantage of everybody else. Capitalism requires the full range of motivation, including the intrinsic drive for knowledge and fairness.

Second, you can't tame the desire for money with sermons. You can only counteract greed with some superior love, like the love of knowledge.

Third, if market-rigging is defeated, it won't be by government regulators. It will be through a market innovation in which a good exchange replaces bad exchanges, designed by those who fundamentally understood the old system.

And here's a phenomenon often true in innovation stories: The people who go to work pursuing knowledge, or because they intrinsically love writing code, sometimes end up making more money than the people who go to work pursuing money as their main purpose.



At Coachella, Artists & Spectators are Not So Far Apart



Solange performs in the Gobi Tent at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival at the Empire Polo Club in Indio, Calif., April 12, 2014. The multi-stage annual music and arts festival, which falls at the beginning of the summer festival season and acts as a preview for the next few months of live pop around the world, runs this year from April 11 through 13, and again from April 18 through 20.

(Emily Berl/The New York Times)

BEN RATLIFF © 2014 New York Times

INDIO, Calif. - The age of the pop performer being somehow distinct from or areater than the audience is almost over; the audience has grown much more powerful, mostly through the forces of the Internet and social media. Nowhere is this more apparent perhaps than at last weekend's Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival, whose audience - cultivated over 15 editions in 15 years - has all that soft power and money, too: Tickets

cost at least \$375. The audience members have been called tastemakers, but let's see that generalization and raise it. Let's call them artists

Here, Pharrell Williams, the present definition of a pop star, can talk to a crowd at something sounding like his own level, and even elicit sympathy. ("You don't even understand how hurt my feelings are right now," he said Saturday night toward the end of a canny, strategically guest-filled performance, "that I'm losing my voice because of

all this dust.") This is a festival that has cultivated its own talent, in a general sense and over time, either directly or by example. The performers were often a direct extension and reflection of the fans, as if one could stroll up onstage, start singing and become the other.

The bros continue to pack into the mainstream electronic dance-music shows in the gigantic Sahara tent, a space whose sound and culture hasn't changed much in the last seven years or so. (This year's Sahara

slate included Zedd, Martin Garrix and Alesso.) But everywhere else in greater numbers, the young women redeem the festival. It is for, about, and in many cases by, them.

I've been to Coachella

seven times, but this was

the year when it really be-

came clear that Coachella

women, loosely defined,

were usually the best or most definitive performers onstage. The sisters of the band Haim, from Los Angeles, who told the crowd toward the end of a strong set that they'd sneaked into the festival every year since 2004; Warpaint, playing mysterious post-punk, both rough and unapologetically smooth; Lana Del Rey, in a red dress, practicing the art of moving little and signifying much as she played her stately new song "West Coast," which sounds like channelswitching between two attractive fuque states; Alexis Krauss of Sleigh Bells, an electro-punk shouter who has turned into a powerful soul singer; Lauren Mayberry of Chvrches; Aluna Francis of AlunaGeorge; Ellie Goulding; Lorde, of the newly mainstream, spacious and anthemic post-R&B; and a new demi-Lorde named Banks, whose intonation problems got in the way of her mysteriousness. (She has declared that she doesn't like social media and has posted her telephone number on her Facebook page, which is a brilliant way of using social media.) And then there were women who drew a more severe or high-concept line between performer and audience: Solange Knowles, danceinstructing and practicing high-register vocal chops on optimistic '80s R&B; the Nigerian-Lebanese DJ Nicole Moudaber, playing a hypnotic, strictly minimal, bass-heavy set at the Yuma tent, this festival's successful approximation of an indoor club. Further, there were men making music that has manageable scale and texture and sensitivity, music that for whatever reason, women tend

to like: Andre 3000 of the reunited Outkast; Williams; Blood Orange, built around the funk scholar Dev Hynes; and Future Islands, basically built around the singer Samuel T. Herring.

Williams reads this crowd perfectly: His music goes right down the middle between the two Coachella types, with tight, bouncing, aerated rhythm, and falsettos for days. (His dance records, unlike the music in the Sahara tent, have a clean design sense.) Before he lost his voice, in an hourlong set of songs under his own name or that he produced - what's the difference, really? - he called in his chits, bringing onstage Busta Rhymes (for "Pass the Courvoisier, Part II"), Gwen Stefani (for "Hollaback Girl"), Nelly, Snoop Dogg and Diplo.

Coachella, whose lineup repeats next weekend, is a self-contained media polity, streaming and photographing itself like crazy, tweeting to the end of time. (Rebecca Nicholson of The Guardian got it just right in a piece that ran online Saturday, which ended with the sentence "There really was a lot of posing.") It also falls at the beginning of the summer festival season and acts as a preview for the next few months of live pop around the world. For those reasons, it breeds special occasions, such as Justin Bieber appearing during Chance the Rapper's set, Mary J. Blige during Disclosure's, or Debbie Harry during Arcade Fire's, all of which happened Sunday; or old-band reunions, like Outkast or the Replacements; or new arrangements, such as what Beck did in a strong Sunday night performance with songs like "New Pollution" and "Gamma Ray."

But only rarely does a band philosophically reinvent itself for a tour, which is what the Swedish electronic group the Knife did Friday. For the tour behind its recent album "Shaking the Habitual," it hasn't created a spectacle around its primary singer, Karin Dreijer Andersson.



Fans watch Zedd perform on the Sahara Stage at the Valley Music and Arts Festival at the Empire Polo Club in Indio, Calif., April 11, 2014.

(Emily Berl/The New York Times)